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Page 18



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'Why won't you fly the Pride flag?

Council is under fire again

By Eva Astreinidou

ABINGDON Town Council has again come under fire for voting not to fly the rainbow flag from County Hall and is facing criticism for being a 'backward thinking town'.

Oxford Pride wanted to fly the flag for an event on June 3, but a review of a vote in the town council stopped the motion and has sparked discussion on the town's 'disgraceful' flag policy.

On Friday, the group tweeted: "Abingdon Town Council have voted AGAIN NOT to fly the flag from County Hall. It's disgraceful, is this 2017 or 1907? #abingdowntowncouncil".

Abingdon Town Council faced controversy for their decision not to fly a rainbow flag from County Hall during an Oxford Pride event in 2016.

The proposal to fly the flag was put forward by Liberal Democrat town councillors Samantha Bowring and Neil Fawcett but was rejected in a vote.

On Monday, Cllr Bowring said: "Abingdon Town Council has a flag policy which states which flags may be flown from the town's main flagpole on County Hall.

"We support having a list of approved

flags as the town's main flagpole is to be taken seriously but see no reason that a recognised flag that has been flown from Portcullis House, Sandhurst and other Government buildings, as well as numerous other councils, should not meet the criteria.

"I feel that adding one well established flag to a list of flags that may, at some point, be flown is a small ask and causes no harm. There is little effort or expense involved but this flag flying from the county hall would mean a great deal to many Abingdon residents."

Chairman of Oxford Pride, Rob Jordan, said: "Oxford Pride is extremely disappointed the review group on Abingdon Town Council has again decided not to allow other flags.

"The opportunity to show Abingdon as a progressive town has been missed once again. The fact that a group of individuals that are meant to represent the town are failing to do so is extremely sad in 2017.

"Comments made during the original decision by Conservative councillors still haven't been addressed which

Continues on page 3



MP's praise for community hospital

THE Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Innovation praised staff at a community hospital in Abingdon for its work.

MP for Oxford West and Abingdon Nicola Blackwood visited the Abingdon Community Hospital last Thurs-

day to meet and chat with staff and patients.

The hospital provides rehabilitation for people who no longer require the services of a big acute hospital but do require a level of support greater than their home environment.

The MP said: "Abingdon Community Hospital continues to play a key role in supporting the wider NHS in Oxfordshire, providing early and late-stage rehab and helping to prevent bed blocking, which we all know is a crucial issue in Oxfordshire."



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Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth,
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Advertising - 01235 511700

enquiries@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

Advertising Manager

Julian Richings - 01235 516926

Newsdesk - 01235 516931

news@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

Group Editor:

Karen Neville

01235 516931

karen@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Chief Reporter:

Adam Flinn

01235 516933

adam@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

Reporters:

George Welch

01235 516912

george@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

Samantha McGregor

01235 516908

sam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Eva Astreinidou

01235 516932

eva@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Distribution & Subscriptions

01235 516903

distribution@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

Accounts - 01235 516911

accounts@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

Production - 01235 516934

studio@taylornewspapers.co.uk

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Harriet in India demonstrating her sewing machine and, inset, an example of her work

Artist Harriet is sew talented

AN artist who creates live sewing machine portraits with a power-generating bicycle will be pedalling her way through the UK on a nationwide tour starting this month.

A student of contemporary applied arts, Harriet Riddell, from Watlington, started her career off with life drawing.

But she was always intrigued with textiles and was inspired to use her sewing machine to create unique doodles.

She draws from observation as her subjects pedal away on a bicycle to generate the power for the sewing machine.

Now Harriet is planning a tour of England with her sewing machine, starting from her old University town in Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

Her business, InStitchYou, kickstarted when she would do 15-minute portraits of her subjects in Greenwich Market, London.

Since then, Harriet's art has led her on many adventures, working at Glastonbury festival and travelling as far as India and Kenya.

She said: "Immediately I found a love for this style of drawing. I would set up in pub-

lic places and draw what I could see and hear in cafes, pubs and mountain tops.

"I love the interaction with people when I work. Using the bicycle enhanced this as it encourages the public to become a part of the art.

"I love to work from life. I never draw before I stitch. I like the immediacy of my work and having to work quickly and intuitively to my surroundings.

"This feeds energy into my stitched lines. I am always looking for new places to explore my work in different subjects and real life scenarios."

New law to stop adult sex texts to under-16s

By Eva Astreinidou

A LAW making it illegal for an adult to send sexual communications to a child under 16 has come into force in a bid to stop the increase in grooming.

From Monday, online grooming became a crime in England and Wales, meaning police will be able to arrest anyone who sends a sexual message to a child and intervene before physical abuse takes place.

Thames Valley Police recorded a 55 per cent rise in abusers meeting children after grooming them over the last five years across Thames Valley.

According to Home Office figures, police recorded 14 offences of 'meeting a child following sexual grooming' in Thames Valley in the year to March 2016 - up from nine in 2012.

The NSPCC, the charity working towards safeguarding children against cruelty, said a law was created to make it illegal to send sexual messages to children following the campaign, but the Government 'failed' to bring that law into

force in England and Wales, "leaving police hands tied and preventing them from arresting groomers until they meet the child or sexually abuse them".

As a result, the charity launched the 'Flaw in the Law' campaign, where more than 50,000 people signed a petition to fix the 'loophole'.

A representative said the charity pressured the Government to urgently bring in the anti-grooming legislation and Justice Secretary Liz Truss 'finally' listened.

NSPCC chief executive Peter Wanless said: "The Justice Secretary has done the right thing.

"This is a victory for the 50,000 people who supported the NSPCC's Flaw in the Law campaign. It is a victory for common sense.

"Children should be as safe online as they are offline, wherever they are in the UK.

"This law will give police in England and Wales the powers they need to protect children from online grooming, and to intervene sooner to stop abuse before it starts."

New fire chief working to benefit our communities

OXFORDSHIRE County Council's Fire and Rescue Service has a new Chief Fire Officer.

Simon Furlong, formerly the county's Deputy Chief Fire Officer, started in his new role on Monday, succeeding former chief Dave Etheridge OBE, who retired at the end of March.

Mr Furlong has also been appointed Oxfordshire County Council's Director of Community Safety which includes road safety, business continuity, gypsy and traveller services, emergency planning and trading standards.

He began working as a firefighter in 1990 in West Sussex, moving up the ranks until he joined Oxfordshire's fire service in 2012 as Assistant Chief Fire Officer before being promoted to Deputy Chief Fire Officer last year.

Mr Furlong, who has spent almost 27 years in the fire service, said: "I am extremely proud. I believe that we are in a strong position to face the challenges ahead and to deliver real benefits to all our communities by working together with



my colleagues in the county council.

"We have highly professional fire and rescue and community safety services here in Oxfordshire and I feel very honoured to be given the opportunity to lead such dedicated staff.

"Everyone who delivers our services, from firefighters to emergency planning officers to support staff, play an integral part in delivering our vision of 'working together every day to save and improve the lives of the people across Oxfordshire' and remain fully committed to doing so."

He added that, in his position of Director of Community Safety, he wants to increase the diversity of his workforce "to enable us to represent Oxfordshire's communities more effectively".



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'Message is we are backward'

Continued from front page

leads me as chair of Oxford Pride to believe the decision has the unfortunate suggestion that personal bias has once again superseded what is good for Abingdon."

Cheryl Briggs, chair of Abingdon Green Party, said: "Abingdon Town Council's decision to not fly the rainbow flag is giving the message out that Abingdon is a backward-thinking town."

"This is not true. A wide range of people from different backgrounds and cultures have happily made Abingdon their home. As an openly out lesbian I have not experienced any discrimination from the people of Abingdon nor have my openly gay friends."

She said she is organising a rainbow flag day in Abingdon on May 27 as part of the Oxford Pride Festival, to "give a clear message the Abingdon is an inclusive town and supports the LGBT+ community".

Abingdon Town councillor Sandy Lovatt said that the issue was a political one and the insistence of flying the rainbow flag is part of the Liberal Democrats' agenda.

He said: "The Conservative Party is not prejudice against this. This is a political gesture of the liberal democrats."

"They are insisting on taking the place of a national flag. We have flagpoles in the marketplace they could use instead."

Multi-million plan to make hotel a 'Hilton'

A TOWN hotel will undergo a multi-million pound revamp that will include a four-storey extension set to open next summer.

The Oxford Abingdon Hotel, off the A415 in Marcham Road, Abingdon, will be redeveloped into a Hilton Garden Inn, increasing the number of guest rooms and extending the venue to include a lounge bar, restaurant, function rooms and fitness centre.

Planning permission was granted by the Vale of White Horse District Council on March 10 to demolish the current single storey reception, meeting room and dining area closest to the roundabout and to construct the extension to increase the rooms from the current 68 to 151.

The car parking will also be increasing from 80 to 128.

The site was approved due to the 'clear economic benefits for Abingdon' and due to its design which would 'benefit the local townscape'.

Oxfordshire County Council officers had previously recommended further work that needed to be done on the conditions for traffic management and financial contributions to local bus services. They maintained that the site is a sensitive one being near the A34.



An artist's impression of the new Hilton Garden Inn in Abingdon

Formerly known as the Four Pillars hotel, the existing hotel will remain open through the works and current bedrooms will be fully renovated when the new wing is complete.

The hotel's owner, Coldunell Ltd, owns five hotels in the UK. The Oxford Abingdon Hotel's conversion to a Hilton Garden Inn is part of a wider plan to improve Coldunell's current portfolio of hotels.

Hugo Lowry, from Coldunell Ltd, said: "The Oxford Abingdon Hotel has always been, and continues to be, a popular and

successful hotel. We felt however that now was the right time to invest in the hotel to ensure its long-term future."

"Hilton Garden Inn is a very strong and globally recognised brand and one that will complement both the site and surrounding area well."

Abingdon town councillor Sandy Lovatt said: "The development is a good thing."

"It's good for the business park, and good for the town."

"It's a business hotel so it means business travellers will be coming in and making

their way into town, visiting restaurants and other local businesses."

Graham Dodd, senior director, of development, UK and Ireland, for Hilton said: "We're excited to work with experienced hoteliers Colundell to enhance the Oxford Abingdon Hotel under our midscale Hilton Garden Inn brand."

"The new extension will revitalise the hotel and provide visitors and local businesses with first class facilities and a hospitable place to stay and meet."

News Bites

Green fingers

ABINGDON: Gardeners from Abingdon Carbon Cutters made a bed to grow herbs and vegetables in Abbey Gardens on Saturday.

The 12 volunteers cleared a council flowerbed to replace it with the new stock near the river on Abbey Meadow.

To join the gardeners visit abingdoncarboncutters.org.uk and follow the group on Facebook or Twitter@AbingdonCarbonCutters.

Rowers required

ABINGDON: The Dragon Boat Festival on September 3 is in need of rowers.

Anyone over 12 years of age can take part and there is no prior experience needed.

The races take place along a 250-metre course, with knockout heats culminating in an exciting final in the late afternoon.

The teams are encouraged to dress in their favourite fancy dress theme.

Tandem trip

ABINGDON: The Young Farmers are asking for local businesses to sponsor them on a 190-mile bike ride to Torquay.

The group will be leaving from Abingdon market square where businesses will have a chance to display banners as they are setting off on April 18 at 9am.

Members are using tandem bicycles to raise money for Blue Skye Thinking.

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17 accused over 'child sex abuse'

A TOTAL of 17 men face child sex charges after a series of raids in Oxford and Banbury.

Seven were accused of a catalogue of offences after dozens of officers targeted Oxford homes on Thursday last week.

Police confirmed on Saturday that the men, aged 20 to 24, had been charged.

They have been remanded in custody to appear at Oxford Crown Court on April 25.

Around 80 officers raided six Oxford properties as part of Operation Nautical, an investigation into non-recent child sexual exploitation in Oxfordshire. The offences relate to three female victims between 2008 and 2015, police said.

Eight other men have been charged following separate raids in Banbury on Tuesday last week, also as part of Operation Nautical.

A total of 56 charges have been brought against them as they appeared at Oxford Magistrates' Court last week.

A further two men have also

been charged in connection with the Banbury investigation.

Following the arrests, deputy local police area commander for Oxford, Ch Insp Marc Tarbit, said: "The nature of these arrests will always be concerning and I understand that people may have questions about them."

"Because this is an ongoing investigation we will not be able to provide all the information straight away, but we will keep the community updated when we can."

"Tackling child sexual exploitation, both non recent and current, remains an absolute priority for Thames Valley Police and this complex investigation and today's arrests demonstrate this."

"The news of these warrants today could remind people of something that has happened to them in the past which they wish to report to us."

A full list of the charges faced by the accused can be seen at www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk



Young musicians tune up for concert

MORE than 500 young musicians from Oxfordshire descended on Birmingham's prestigious Symphony Hall to perform a special concert to celebrate 75 years of the County Music Service.

A wide range of instrumental and vocal performances wowed a packed audience on March 25 as various bands, orchestras and choirs took to

the stage having honed their skills with the music service.

The Oxfordshire County Council Music Service provides instrumental, vocal, performing arts and music theory tuition and activities.

The service's head, Angela Turton, said: "This was a fantastic performance and experience for all staff and students. "Oxfordshire County Music

Service has changed a great deal since it was set up in 1942, but one thing that has remained a constant is the commitment and skill of its tutors and other staff, and the talent that generations of the county's children have."

She added: "The service has a bright future and this was truly evident in the high standard and range of performances."

"By encouraging diversity and embracing technology, we hope to expand the service and ensure that quality, the hallmark of our service, is maintained."

At one point a massed choir of children from Oxfordshire primary and secondary schools performed alongside singers from established music service vocal groups.

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Puppies dumped in bucket by road

Animal cruelty up 10% says RSPCA

By Eva Astreinidou

REPORTED cases of animal cruelty have risen by nearly 10 per cent in Oxfordshire.

Animal charity the RSPCA revealed the alarming figures last Wednesday along with a shocking catalogue that included puppies dumped by the roadside in a bucket without water.

A member of the public reported the three abandoned puppies in Bicester last August.

Now, they have been rehomed and reunited with their mother, Abby, who was taken to a local rescue kennel by a council dog warden after being picked up as a stray.

Annabell Pottle, from Ardley Rescue Kennels, who helped to rehabilitate the dogs, said: "It's so sad that someone would do this to such lovely dogs. We are pleased they have gone on to find new homes."

RSPCA inspector Andy Eddy said: "These poor pups had been left alone in a broken bucket and were clambering on top of each other."

"They were suffering with mange, diarrhoea and worms, but with expert care, they all thankfully made a good recovery."

"They had no water. Leaving them exposed like this was really dangerous. Sadly the person who dumped them was never traced."



The puppies have now been reunited with their mother

Last year, five puppies were discovered dumped in a cage near Chipping Norton.

The puppies, three of which had already died, were found with no water by a dog walker on October 24. Two eight-week-old pups were found in a crate alongside the three dead puppies – one of them later died at the vets.

Speaking on the recent report, Dermot Murphy, assistant director of the RSPCA inspectorate, said: "I believe that the figures from last year show that we're not becoming crueller."

"It seems that people are simply less willing to stand by and do nothing if they think an animal is suffering."

Jailed dealer had £20k of drugs seized from home

A PROLIFIC drug dealer who had more than £20,000 of Class A and B drugs seized from him has been sentenced to more than three years behind bars.

Dean Gannon, 49, of Pelican Place in Eynsham, pleaded guilty to three counts of drug offences in February.

On July 14 last year, Thames Valley Police officers executed a misuse of drugs warrant at Gannon's home.

He was arrested and officers seized 'large quantities' of MDMA, 1.6 kilos of cannabis, and a 'quantity' of cannabis resin, with a street value of over £20,000.

Officers also seized £24,000 in cash.

Gannon was charged on January 16 and pleaded guilty to the offences in February at Oxford Magistrates' Court.

He was sentenced to 42 months at Oxford Crown Court on March 24.

Gannon pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to supply a controlled drug of class



Dean Gannon got 42 months in jail



Thousands in cash found at home

A (MDMA), one count of possession of class A drug (cocaine), one count of possession with intent to supply a controlled drug class B (cannabis,) and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug class B (cannabis resin).

Investigating officer Sgt Elizabeth Bell, of the Eynsham Neighbourhood policing team, said: "The quantities of drugs and cash found by police on the execution of the drugs warrant show that Gannon was making a

good living from dealing class A and B drugs to the community.

"His activity was lowering the quality of life of people in the local community and causing distress to many."

"Drug supply is an important issue and Thames Valley Police in west Oxfordshire is committed to reducing crime, especially drug-related offences."

Contact police on 101 if you have any drug-related concerns in your area.



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Wildlife curator James Craig pictured in Madagascar

What's Yousstwo looking at then?

GREAT Britain's first baby Sifaka lemur has taken his first steps at Cotswold Wildlife Park.

Born last month, Yousstwo is the first breeding success for new parents Bafana and Tahina and is the first Sifaka birth in the park's history.

Jamie Craig, curator of Cotswold Wildlife Park, said: "On the night of the birth, things seemed to go perfectly from the beginning. It is enormously satisfying to watch Yousstwo develop after all the effort that has been

put in by keepers – including 24-hour Sifaka watch on CCTV.

"Tahina is proving to be an exemplary mother and our success complements the conservation efforts in Madagascar perfectly.

"Yousstwo is now beginning to explore his new world and we hope he will go on to be an important part of the breeding programme."

Bafana arrived at the park in 2009 from Besancon Zoo in France and Tahina joined him in 2013. The pair formed an instant bond and are the only breeding pair in the country.

Lemurs are native to Madagascar.



Sifaka lemur Yousstwo hitches a ride at Cotswold Wildlife Park. Pictures: Jackie Thomas

BMW workers strike over pensions

By George Welch

WORKERS at car giant BMW, based at Cowley's Mini Plant, have voted overwhelmingly to go on strike over a pensions dispute.

Members of Unite backed walkouts by 93 per cent, with 97 per cent supporting other forms of industrial action on Friday last week.

Yesterday, Unite announced eight 24-hour strikes between April 19 and May 24 that will impact up to 3,500 workers in Cowley, Swindon, Goodwood and the Hams Hall plant in the west Midlands.

Workers at the Cowley plant are due to strike on five of the dates, including April 19, 23 and May 16, 18 and 21.

The union said closure of

the BMW pension scheme by the end of May could see some workers lose up to £160,000 in retirement income.

Unite general secretary Len McCluskey said yesterday that strike action will be taking place due to "BMW's refusal to talk about affordable options to keep the pension scheme open".

He added: "Bosses in the UK and BMW's headquarters in

Munich cannot feign surprise that it's come to this point.

"Unite has repeatedly warned of the anger their insistence to railroad through the pension scheme's closure would generate and the resulting industrial action.

"BMW's bosses need to get their heads out of the sand and recognise their pension pinching plans will not go unchallenged.

"BMW's UK workers have contributed significantly to a record year in revenues and sales for the carmaker.

"They deserve better than broken pension promises and the loss of tens of thousands of pounds in retirement income.

"I urge BMW to step back from its May deadline for the scheme's closure and negotiate seriously to find a settlement."

A BMW spokesperson said before yesterday's announcement: "BMW has always prided itself in providing excellent pensions for its staff and wants to act now to protect future pension provision for its UK workforce.

"The company has had a number of planned meetings on the proposed changes since the start of the consultation process in September last year."

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Record-chasers are the cat's whiskers

ANIMAL lovers are being urged to don whiskers, ears and a tail to help an animal charity set a new world record for the largest gathering of people dressed as cats.

Burford-based Blue Cross needs 500 willing supporters to dress head to toe as a cat at their rehoming centre on Shilton Road to set the new world record.

The record attempt will take place on Sunday, May 14, during a family fun day at the west Oxfordshire centre.

To be counted as part of the record attempt, people will need to have a full head to toe cat costume including ears, tail and whiskers, which may be painted on their face.

Alongside the record attempt, there will be a fun

day for all the family with a dog show, fun fair, live music and games from 11am to 4pm.

Entry to the fun day is £1, which will go towards helping Blue Cross continue its vital work helping sick and injured pets. Children under the age of 16 can go for free.

Jenna Martyn, Blue Cross Burford centre manager, said: "We are looking forward to

seeing lots of people putting their best paw forward on the day.

"Not only will we be bidding for a new world record but also raising awareness of the work Blue Cross does and funds to help our charity continues its work across the country."

To take part in the world record attempt, register at tinyurl.com/msub3uj

Dementia care home 'excellent'

By George Welch

AN Oxford care home has been praised for its 'excellent facilities' following a special visit.

The Lord Mayor of Oxford, Mohammed Altaf-Khan, went to Wytham House, which provides dementia care for up to 40 people, for an awareness event on March 23.

He met Wytham House manager Koren Evans-Slade and other members of staff.

The event at the Eynsham Road home was an opportunity for people to get a better understanding about, and empathy for, the psychological needs of a person living with dementia.

Cllr Altaf-Khan, who helped open the home by planting a rose bush last summer, was impressed.

The Lord Mayor, who attended the event along with local businesses and organisations, said: "At Wytham House it is good to see some of the most vulnerable people in our community being cared for in a well designed and

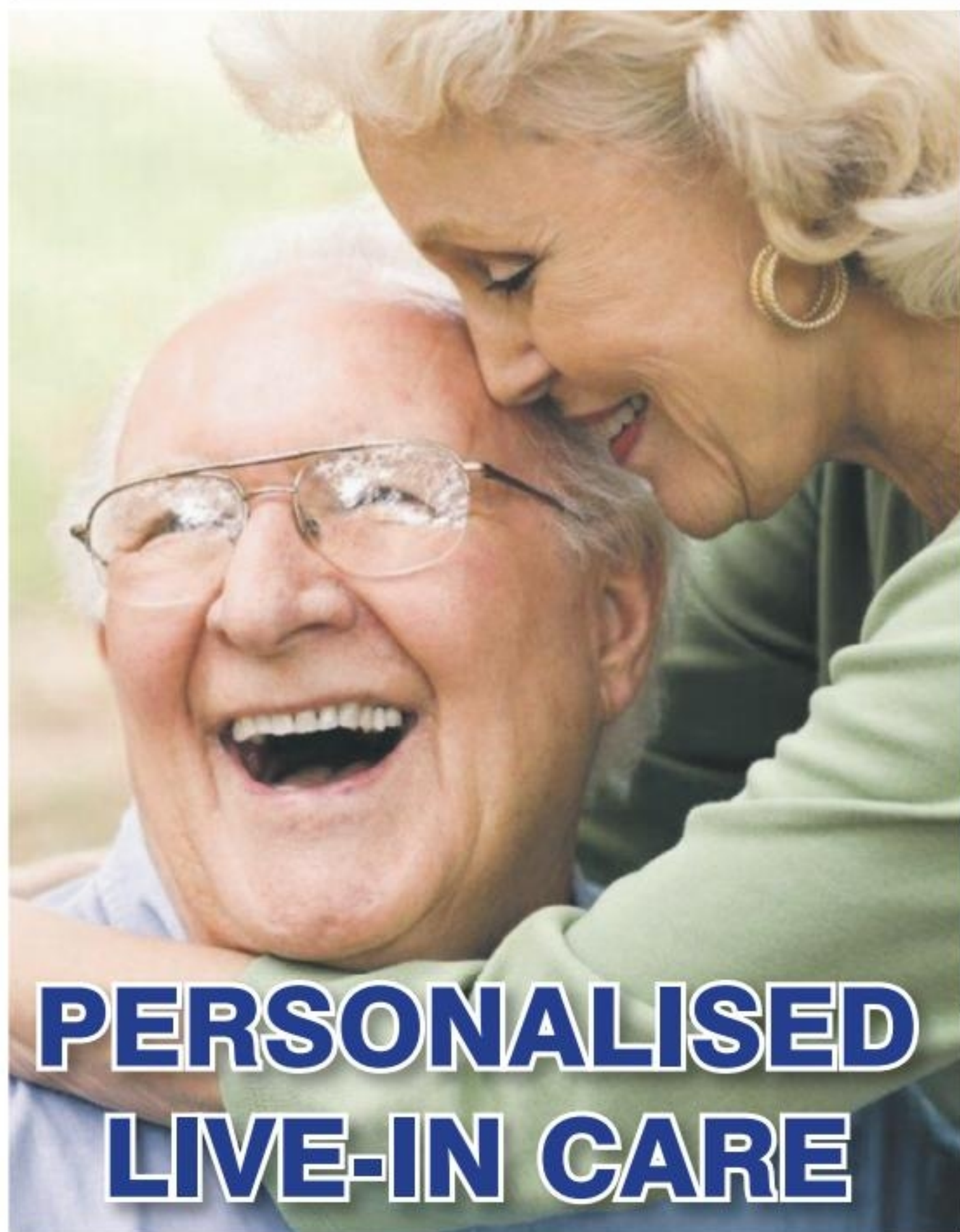
well-run home. It must be very reassuring for families to know their loved ones are well looked after and good to see that as a society here in Oxford we are caring well for our elderly people, some of whom may be in the last stages of their lives."

The sessions to help people understand the needs of people living with dementia are based on the dementia training programme by Caring Homes, which runs the home.

There were hints and tips to improve communication and a practical session to help people understand some of the day-to-day frustrations of living with dementia.

The session, as well as a similar event in the morning especially for family members of those living with dementia, was run by Caring Homes' dementia training lead Michele Saunders.

She said: "These sessions really help people understand what life is like for those living with the condition."



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Support the Oxfordshire Guardian's charity of the year – Play2Give Team struggle through the bog

By George Welch

A SUPER six waded, crawled, climbed and ran through mud and water in arduous conditions to help raise cash for a local fundraising organisation.

The Herculean effort of the six saw them brave the bog of eternal stench, crawl through a tyre pen and climb over a great wall – among other things – at a Monster Race in west Oxfordshire on Saturday, to collect hundreds of pounds for our charity of the year, Play2Give (P2G).

P2G, founded by Didcot's Andy Baker in 2007, is aiming to raise £10k in the charity's 10th anniversary, with the Oxford Children's Hospital and Headway Oxfordshire the main benefactor's of the charity's fundraising.

Hardy souls Lee Edwards, Jonathan Elsmore-Wickens, Lesley Saunders, Charlie Sadler were from Cowley-based Leaseguard, a group that helps the NHS make savings.

Charlie's husband Martyn, of Bicester Car & Van Rental and Russ Doman, who works for Allmakes 4x4, completed the gruelling obstacle assault race with the rest of the team within two and a half hours.



The team with their medals at the end, from left, Charlie Sadler, Jon Elsmore-Wickens, the team's inspiration Andy Baker, Lesley Saunders, Lee Edwards, Russ Doman and Martyn Sadler

The Monster Race was held in the beautiful surroundings of Cornbury Park, near Charlbury, with well over 1,000 people getting down and dirty.

The Leaseguard P2G team smashed their £400 sponsorship target, and with a cakes sale and dress down day held last Friday, well over £500 has been raised for P2G.

Speaking after the race, captain Lee, who has been friends with Andy for many years after

first taking part in one of P2G's football tournaments in 2008, said: "This race was a bit of a monster, but we started and finished it together as a team."

"Despite all the aches, pains and bruising it was a pleasure to represent P2G."

"Crawling through thick mud, swimming in murky water, climbing particularly high structures...I felt like a kid again and I loved every single minute of it."

Adding her reactions, Lesley, who suffered an injury to her shoulder at the start of the race, said: "I was very apprehensive as I didn't know what to expect."

"I was not looking forward to the bog of eternal stench, which I might add is just that – I still can't get the smell out of my clothes – and it was cold."

"The Play2Give team were awesome and spurred each other on all the way – the adrenaline and camaraderie really

helped, as did the jelly babies."

"My highlight was seeing the look on Andy's face as we all approached the finish line."

Born with a brain injury, Andy, 28, who underwent brain surgery aged 12 after suffering a further head injury when he was eight, has raised money for a catalogue of local causes, after he began fundraising aged 14 in 2003 at St Birinus School in Didcot.

The Leaseguard team plans to support P2G's appeal with another Monster Run next spring and other fundraising initiatives.

Andy said: "I would like to thank the entire team who braved the beastly run to raise such a superb amount – which at the time of speaking – is still topping up."

"All six of them were amazing and after their nerves they really got into the swing of things and it's fair to say they all loved it."

"They all did brilliantly to conquer such a tough course."

"It was great to see such high and brilliant team spirit from all. They were a great bunch and all took it in their stride."

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Spring into Action

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system.

It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes

mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from, constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes, and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me, there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality, value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for

the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view, Colourfence is the 'Rolls Royce' of fencing - just without the exclusive price tag. What's more, it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

"I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today!"

Anna Richardson

Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

For many Colourfence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 15 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects wooden fences, Colourfence has none of the drawbacks of wood - plenty of additional benefits and what's more it's better value!

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Gardeners' Questions

Q Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

A The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence - once professionally installed - Colourfence really will stay up!

Q No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long.

A Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply wants to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! **GUARANTEED!**



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Every gardener knows that it pays to plan ahead. If you are one of the thousands of people who watched helpless, as winter winds battered their garden, it will not be a surprise that garden fences are almost always the first casualty. Whether you have previously patched, painted or simply prayed to keep your fence going, there's no escaping the fact that timber fences will always fall victim to the weather. With Colourfence you can put your garden straight once and for all. Colourfence is scientifically tested and cyclonically rated to ensure when professionally installed, it can withstand wind gusts of up to

130mph. Once it's up - it stays up and is guaranteed to look good year after year. Safe, extra secure and hassle free - you will NEVER need to paint it, treat it or patch it. An occasional hose down will be all you need to do to keep it in top condition for years to come. In fact the system is so durable that Colourfence will guarantee† their fencing to last at least 25 years. Available in a range of colours to suit any garden, with or without decorative trellis, the highly skilled installation team make short work of their dramatic transformations. Your sad old fence will be efficiently cleared and replaced, leaving you to get

back to enjoying your rejuvenated garden. Pricing is just as straightforward and equally attractive. Starting costs are in line with inferior timber systems but with no annual treatments required, Colourfence saves you time and money each and every year. Their aim is your peace of mind. With a 25 year guarantee† Colourfence speaks for itself and promises a lifetime of hassle-free enjoyment.

For more information and to arrange a FREE no obligation site visit simply call one of their helpful team on 01865 582 171.

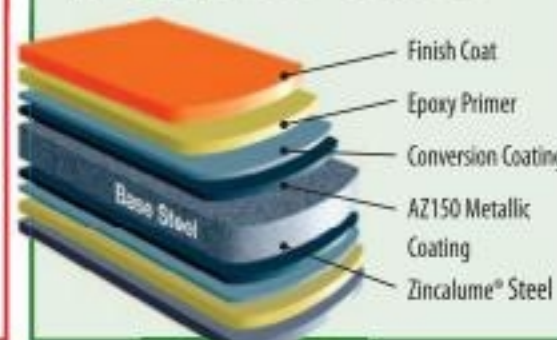
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Poldark's horse is a star of the show

THIS year's Banbury and District Show will have a famous guest.

Seamus, the horse ridden by Poldark in the hit television show, will perform in two displays in the main arena in Spiceball Park on June 11.

In the popular show Seamus is seen cantering along Cornish clifftops but his day job is as one of the Atkinson Liberty Action Horses.

Also in the main arena will be a demonstration by dogs from the Banbury Cross Flyball Club, a fun dog show organised by the Up 'n' Over Dog Club and motorcycle daredevils Stunt Mania – a mother and son act – who promise to bring some of the best non-stop explosive action with their 'anything goes' show.

The second arena will be set aside for music, dancing and drama.

New to the event is Banbury Art Fest where 35 artists will celebrate all that's good about local arts and crafts.

Visitors will be able to watch potters, painters and weavers at work and buy their goods.

The Banbury Show is an annual favourite with residents that is organised by Banbury Town Council. It is free to enter.

Ann Sewell, Banbury Town Council's events manager, said: "The show will be a fantastic



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family day out.

"This year's event will be of the usual high standard and once again we are providing something new by way of the Arts Fest.

"The entertainment in the two arenas will be superb and there will be something for all the family."

Average time to get to hospitals 'is 100 minutes'

By Samantha McGregor

IT takes one hour and 40 minutes for people from Banbury to travel to and park at hospitals in Oxford.

A total of 377 residents responded to a survey organised by North Oxfordshire MP Victoria Prentis to find out more about journey times for appointments.

It comes after Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group launched a consultation over proposals to reduce services at Banbury's Horton Hospital including a midwife-led maternity unit.

The survey, which was set up in January, showed the average journey of respondents took 1 hour and 20 minutes to travel from the Banbury area to an Oxford hospital, and a further 20 minutes to park.

Mrs Prentis said: "It came as no surprise to discover that the average journey time from my constituency to the Oxford



MP Victoria Prentis

hospitals, including parking, is over an hour and a half.

"The OCCG maintains that the average journey time from Banbury to Oxford is 45 minutes. The data I have collected show this to not be the case.

"The majority of my constituents live within 10 miles of the Horton General Hospital – a much-loved, well-regarded and easy to access hospital.

"The Oxford hospitals are not easily accessible for the

people of North Oxfordshire.

"It is vital that the OCCG take this into account when making any decisions about the future of NHS services in the county."

People from north Oxfordshire, south Northamptonshire and south Warwickshire took part in the survey.

The nearest journey was 12.4 miles from the John Radcliffe and the furthest was 43.4 miles. Most of those who took part lived within 10 miles of the Horton.

Mrs Prentis said the distance between Banbury and Oxford has been a key factor in determining the organisation of health services to date.

A spokesperson for Oxfordshire CCG said: "We acknowledge the initiative taken by Victoria Prentis around health journey times, which will be considered alongside other feedback and comment as part of the Oxfordshire Transformation consultation."

News Bites

Blitz on rubbish

BICESTER: Housing estate Langford Village is fresh and clean after council workers removed 18 tonnes of waste.

Cherwell District Council teams spent a week removing litter, fly-tipped waste and graffiti as part of a neighbourhood blitz.

Residents also took advantage of a free bulky waste collection service with 74 collections booked and 3.62 tonnes of large items collected.

Bid for a grant

THAME: Groups and organisations are being urged to apply for a town council grant.

The scheme aims to fund projects that address the needs, aspirations and issues of the Thame community.

The deadline for applications is May 2.

Big clean-up

THAME: Thame and Morten are spick and span thanks to a community effort for the Thame Tidy event.

Residents and more than 20 different groups including Scouts, Lea Park residents, Stones Close allotment holders, Thame & District Lions Club and The Grace Church turned out.

More than six tons of waste were cleared.



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Dumped dog Vegas finds a loving home

Who's a lucky boy?

By George Welch

A POOCH named Vegas has hit a lucky streak after finding a loving new owner in Henley-on-Thames.

The three-year-old Doberman was looking for a new home after being found as a stray last year.

Yasmin Tredell instantly fell in love with him and has since nursed him back to health.

The emaciated pup had been

taken in by the Dogs Trust weighing half his ideal weight. But he is now living the good life thanks to the love and care of Bell Street resident Yasmin.

While many dogs are often put on strict diets to lose weight, it was quite the opposite for Vegas, who was just 24kg when he arrived at the Dogs Trust centre in Evesham in November 2016.

But after being adopted by Yasmin and receiving lots of

TLC, he is now a healthy 40kg. The underweight hound had to be closely monitored by the vet team while he was under the care of Dogs Trust who put a plan in place to help him gain weight slowly.

His stomach wouldn't have been able to cope with a sudden increase in food.

Vegas now has regular visits to the vet and medical experts say they are pleased with his progress.

When Yasmin first saw Vegas, it was puppy love at first sight and she knew he was the dog for her.

They now spend their time going for long walks down by the river, taking trips to the woods and playing endless games of fetch, before finishing the day curled up on the sofa together.

Yasmin said: "Vegas is one spoilt pup and so different to the dog I met a few months ago.

"He has made such amazing progress, growing so much in confidence despite what he must have been through.

"He still has regular vet check-ups to keep track of his weight gain.

"He's very sweet natured and just wants to please everyone - he's a big softie. He makes me laugh all the time and I really couldn't imagine my life without him.

"He's my sidekick!"

Protesters want repeal of Brexit bill

CROWDS gathered in Oxford to protest against Brexit a day before the 'Great Repeal' bill was published to formally launch the UK's departure from the EU.

A silent vigil was held at Oxford Town Hall on Wednesday evening last week over the UK government's initiation of the Brexit process.

Campaigners want the new bill revoked.

After Prime Minister Theresa May's statement on triggering Article 50, representatives from 'European Movement', an independent pro-European organisation, said: "She calls on us to come together, but the British people are not united and we do not see how the prime minister can represent us all.

"We are committed to European values and identity and we are confident that our pro-EU message is being heard. It is the government's policy which threatens the unity of our country.

"We will continue our campaign now that Article 50 has been triggered and hope to influence the debate as the negotiations proceed.

"We are conscious of the need to unify our people again and to look after the welfare of EU citizens living among us."



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'City reps' will boost twin links

OXFORD is recruiting city reps to get involved with the city's international links and look after its 'twins' all over the world.

Oxford is paired with five cities – Perm in Russia, Leiden in the Netherlands, Bonn in Germany, León in Nicaragua and Grenoble in France.

The city council is looking for 10 people, aged 18 to 25, to represent them and help raise awareness and engagement among their peers.

City representatives will fundraise for their trips abroad and create a website containing accounts of their travel experience and guides to all five twin cities. They will also keep an ear to the ground for all twinning activities.

Peter McQuitty, head of culture, said: "The city council is investing in improving opportunities for young people to engage in positive activities and develop the skills and ambition to achieve to the best of their abilities.

"The city rep scheme will help young people develop their digital, fundraising, communication and event management skills, as well as build their self-confidence and provide opportunities to develop friendships."

Sparrows rule roost yet again as commonest bird in county

By George Welch

HOUSE sparrows were once again the most common bird in Oxfordshire's gardens following the RSPB's annual survey.

Results from the Big Garden Birdwatch published last Thursday showed that while the average number of sparrows recorded had stayed the same from last year, they had been seen in a higher percentage of gardens.

Blackbirds and starlings were the next most common birds, followed by wood pigeons and blue tits.

The Birdwatch ran from January 28 to 30, asking people across the country to count the different species that visit their garden over a one-hour period.

Daniel Hayhow, a conservation scientist at RSPB, said: "The sight of a robin or blackbird perched on the garden fence is often one of the first experiences we have with nature.

"So to have over half a million people taking part and counting a bumper eight million birds across one weekend is amazing.

"Using the information from the weekend we'll be able to

Bird	2017 average	per garden	2016 rank
1 House sparrow	3.9	1	1
2 Blackbird	3.0	5	5
3 Starling	2.8	4	4
4 Wood pigeon	2.4	3	3
5 Blue tit	2.3	2	2
6 Goldfinch	1.7	6	6
7 Robin	1.6	9	9
8 Long-tailed tit	1.4	10	10
9 Great tit	1.3	7	7
10 Collared dove	1.1	11	11

create a snapshot of how our garden birds are doing."

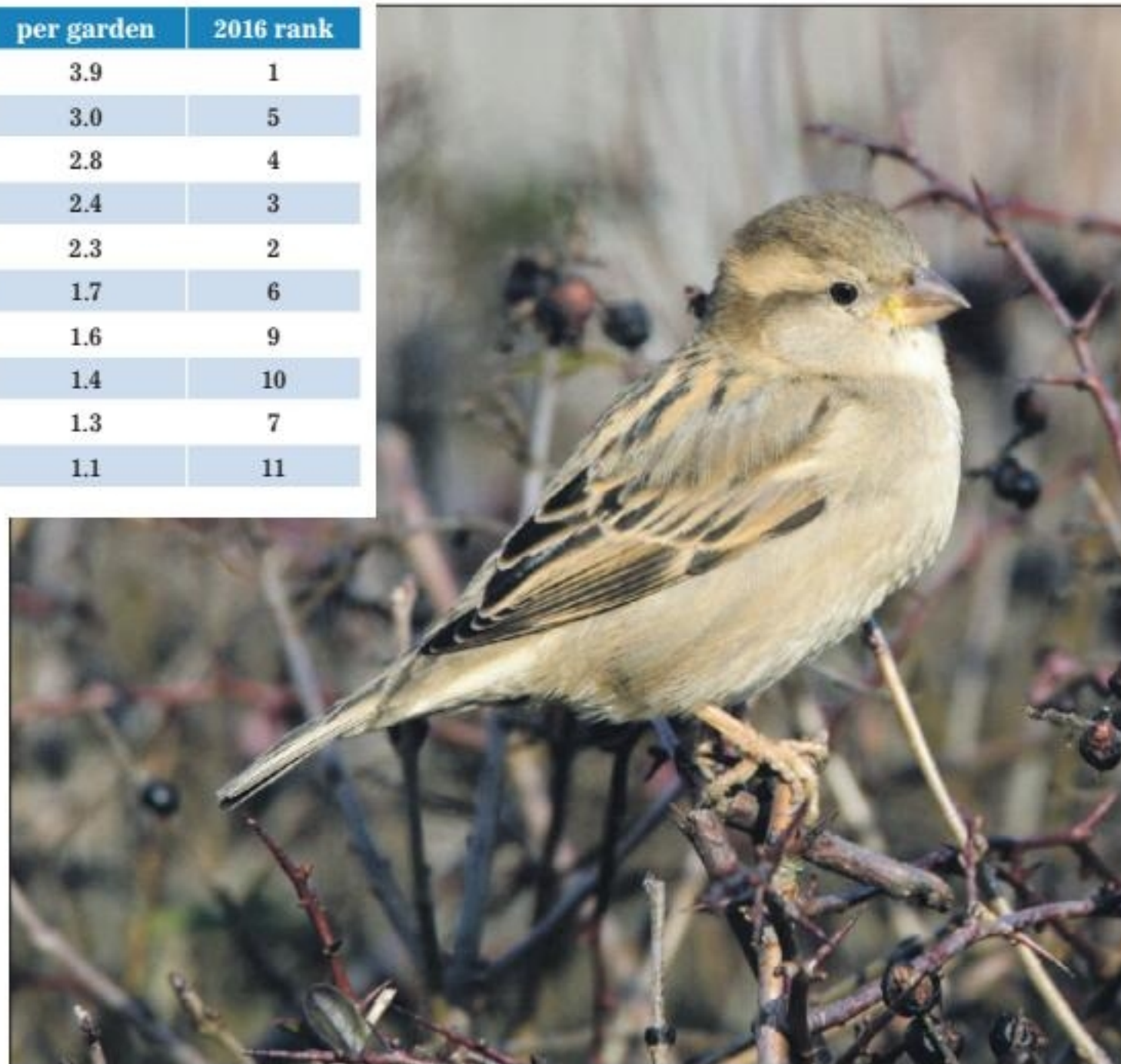
Sparrows and starlings were the top two birds seen nationally, with blackbirds in third.

The RSPB also reported an increased number of migrant birds, such as waxwings, redwings and fieldfares.

But in Oxfordshire it was a tough year for tits, with blue tits and great tits tumbling from second to fifth and seventh to ninth respectively.

RSPB officer Tim Webb said: "Gardens are an increasingly valuable resource for birds.

"Our theory is they are finding it easier to find food and shelter in gardens."



The house sparrow has again been recorded as the most common bird in Oxfordshire's gardens.

Picture: Andy Hay

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Golden girl Victoria helps peddle the goods at hospice's new store



Cycling star Victoria Pendleton

OLYMPIC gold medallist Victoria Pendleton will officially relaunch the relocated Sobell House warehouse on Sunday.

The cycling star will cut the ribbon and declare the store, in Murdock Road, open at noon.

Victoria, now an amateur jockey, has confessed she is a fan of upcycling, recycling and caring for the environment and offered to give up her time free in support of the Oxfordshire based charity.

The opening will include amusements for children and ice cream and cakes.

"I have always enjoyed shopping trips around charity shops since I was a young girl and am interested in fashion," said Victoria.

"I still love looking for that vintage piece and finding that all important bargain."

The new 12,000 sq ft large format store will offer a vast array

of new and used goods for homes, with all proceeds going to support the hospice charity.

Victoria will be in the store meeting guests and there will be a photo booth where customers can have a photo taken with her for a donation to Sobell House.

She will also pick out the winning tickets for a prize draw.

Head of retail at Sobell House Louise Musgrove said: "A large number of people have expressed their excitement at the new project even before the store has been ready to open."

"We have worked so hard to get this huge undertaking off the ground. We cannot wait to welcome Victoria."

Each year the hospice cares for 3,000 people from across the county. The charity's former Bicester base in Station Approach closed at the end of last year.

Plans submitted for eco business centre

By Samantha McGregor

A PLANNING application for a £4m eco business centre aimed at helping start-up firms has been submitted.

Cherwell District Council is leading the project for the centre which, if approved, will be built at the Exemplar site – the first phase of the North West Bicester eco town, in Charlotte Avenue, off Banbury Road.

The business centre site would be almost 1,400 sqm and is located next to land designated for shop units, a pub and community centre.

The offices are expected to cater for 125 employees working as individuals or co-working.

The council is funding the project after its owner A2 Dominion was unable to get a developer interested in building and running the business centre because it is only expected to make a "modest" profit.

Cherwell said it had commissioned a feasibility study that showed it "would fulfil a niche in the market", that there was "demand" and therefore it could provide a return on investment "all be it too modest to be likely to attract a commercial developer".

The centre will be built to high



Houses being built at the site

eco standards including a zero carbon building, triple glazed windows and extra insulation. A rainwater system will be used for toilets.

The site will have a total of 21 car parking spaces and 22 cycle spaces. It is hoped work on the building will start this summer.

A report to the Bicester strategic delivery board said: "Work is also progressing on the delivery of the eco business centre to support job creation, small businesses and home working in Bicester."

"A planning application has now been submitted for the building on land at Elmsbrook, to be transferred to the district council from A2Dominion."

"A number of costs are being incurred in progressing the scheme, primarily in professional fees."

"The programme for delivery would result in a contract being entered into for the building in summer 2017 with work starting later this year and completing in 2018."

News Bites

Cycle crash appeal

OXON: Police are appealing for witnesses after a female cyclist was knocked off by a black Mercedes GLA and suffered a fractured shoulder.

The woman, who also suffered heavy bruising, has since been discharged from hospital.

The incident happened at 3.15pm on Sunday, March 26, on the B430, Weston-on-the-Green.

Easter fun for kids

N OXON: Working parents can still take advantage of Cherwell's Easter hubs, which provide holiday activities for children.

A mixture of sports, arts, crafts and games keep young people happy and healthy while they are off school.

Sessions start on Monday.

For more information view www.cherwell.gov.uk

Design town flag

THAME: Residents have until Monday to submit a design for the town's new flag.

The community competition is open to anyone living, working or studying in the parish.

The new flag will be flown outside the Town Hall throughout the year, except when the flagpole is being used to mark special and significant occasions.

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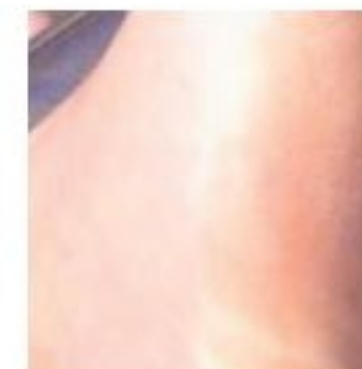
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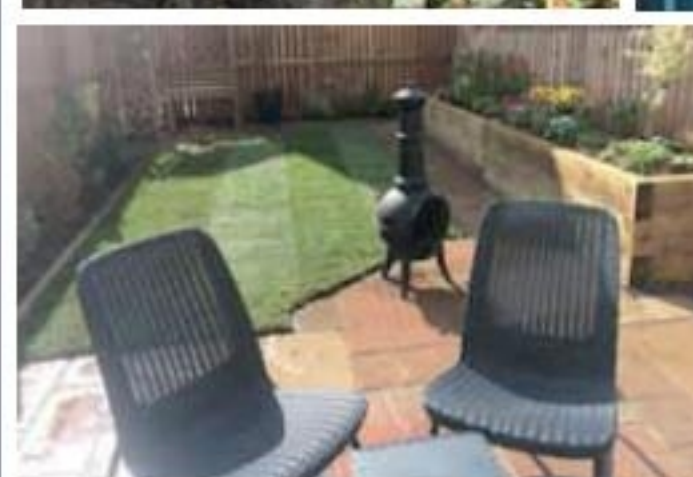
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SPRING has finally arrived, heralding the start of an exciting season of Flat racing at Newbury Racecourse, and you could be there to witness it! Once more the multi-award winning and world-renowned airport retailer Dubai Duty Free are giving you the opportunity to experience a thrilling day out at the races for the Dubai Duty Free Spring Trials.

This year with two days of top-class horseracing on the 21st and 22nd of April, the Dubai Duty Free Spring Trials annually unearths and showcases exciting new equine talent, earning itself a reputation as an early season highlight of the Flat racing calendar.

Open to all, new and experienced racegoers alike, and with opportunities to win further prizes on the Dubai Duty Free Wheel of Surprise, as well as chances to win free entry into the Dubai Duty Free Finest Surprise and the Dubai Duty Free Millennium

Closing date: Thursday, April 13

Millionaire draws, this day is one not to be missed!

WIN tickets!

To be in with a chance of winning one of ten pairs of Premier enclosure tickets for Saturday 22nd April, simply answer the following question:

Q: Dubai Duty Free is synonymous with which industry?

Airport Retailing, Bookmaking or Car Manufacturing?



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Hearing aid users are less likely to think they have symptoms of dementia, feel less physically and mentally exhausted, sleep better and are less likely to suffer from depression.

The survey confirms what some Audiologists have suspected for some time, that hearing aids are not only good for correcting hearing loss but in fact contribute to better and more active lives, better quality of life, and better overall health.

For the hearing impaired workers who wear a hearing aid it is reported that hearing aids are useful for their job and that the hearing aids also increase the chance of them getting promoted, being in the right job and getting more salary compared to those hearing impaired people who have not obtained hearing aids.

The full report can be found at EuroTrak UK 2015- ehima



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The mysteries of the brain: food for thought!

IF you ask a group of people what makes humans different from animals and why we developed into the species we are today, you'll get a vast array of responses. These will range from the biological – that we stand on our hind legs enabling our hands to do other things than walk and we have opposable thumbs so we can use these hands with particular precision – to the cultural: we have tamed fire, we use tools and language, and we feel empathy. And underlying all of these is the human brain, and its incredible capacity to learn, remember and adapt.

The brain is a marvel of evolution and deciphering how it works is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. How does it change over the course of your life, and respond to your genes, experiences and the passing years to make you the person you are?

And in Oxford's Museum of Natural History which is free to visit, there's a new display 'The Brain Diaries' (until September; for age twelve and over) in which Oxford University neuroscientists share their thoughts about the mysteries of the brain looking at its development chapter-by-chapter from before birth until old age – and offering insights into what this could mean for treating nervous system and mental health disorders.

In this exhibition, you can compare the human brain with the brain of a cat, kangaroo, porpoise and other animals along the 'brain wall'. Follow too the changes that take place in the brain throughout life: see how the mind-boggling billions of neurons and trillions of connections in your brain make toddlers learn so fast, make teenagers emotional risk-takers, and allow others to settle into middle age with relief!

It's long been known that over time our ability to think quickly, to recall stored

memories, and to respond to stimuli slows down and this is because of a gradually shrinking cortex, the brain's outermost layer. From age 40, your brain shrinks by five percent a decade on average but there's still plenty of energy and learning potential which is best kept from decline through physical exercise and new experiences. From age 60, the gaps between the folds in the brain's surface become increasingly larger as the brain shrinks in volume, particularly in the frontal cortex – and you can actually see this in the 3D-printed models of the brain of one of the scientists and her family members at different stages of life!

In this month's Scientific American magazine, however, there's new research showing that some older adults have a shrink-resistant cortex, and they perform more like youngsters in memory tests. Because these people are more resistant to age-related diseases like Alzheimer's and dementia, they should begin to give researchers some clues about the genes that keep the brain functioning better for longer, a first step developing a successful treatment of these conditions. And although the answers are likely to be a long time coming because brain health also requires a healthy way of life, keep doing the crossword and eating healthily!

And here's food for thought – when you feel happy it's down to certain chemicals in the brain and surprisingly scientists have shown that a win or an achievement may not result in the happiness you expect because the neurons – or signalling cells – actually react most to the anticipation. So however old we are, however reduced our horizons by physical or mental capacity, we can all still feel happiness by looking ahead to a meal, a visit or the warm weather of spring which is just around the corner. Enjoy!

Puzzles



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Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

- 1 Steps (6)
- 7 Quiver (7)
- 8 Accept (7)
- 9 Attain (5)
- 10 Gave (9)
- 12 Managed (3)
- 13 Jewels (4)
- 15 Falter in speaking (7)
- 17 Hurry (4)
- 19 Untruth (3)
- 21 Agreed (9)
- 22 Soil (5)
- 23 Confounded (7)
- 24 Optimistic (7)
- 25 One of the Channel Islands (6)

Quick Clues Down

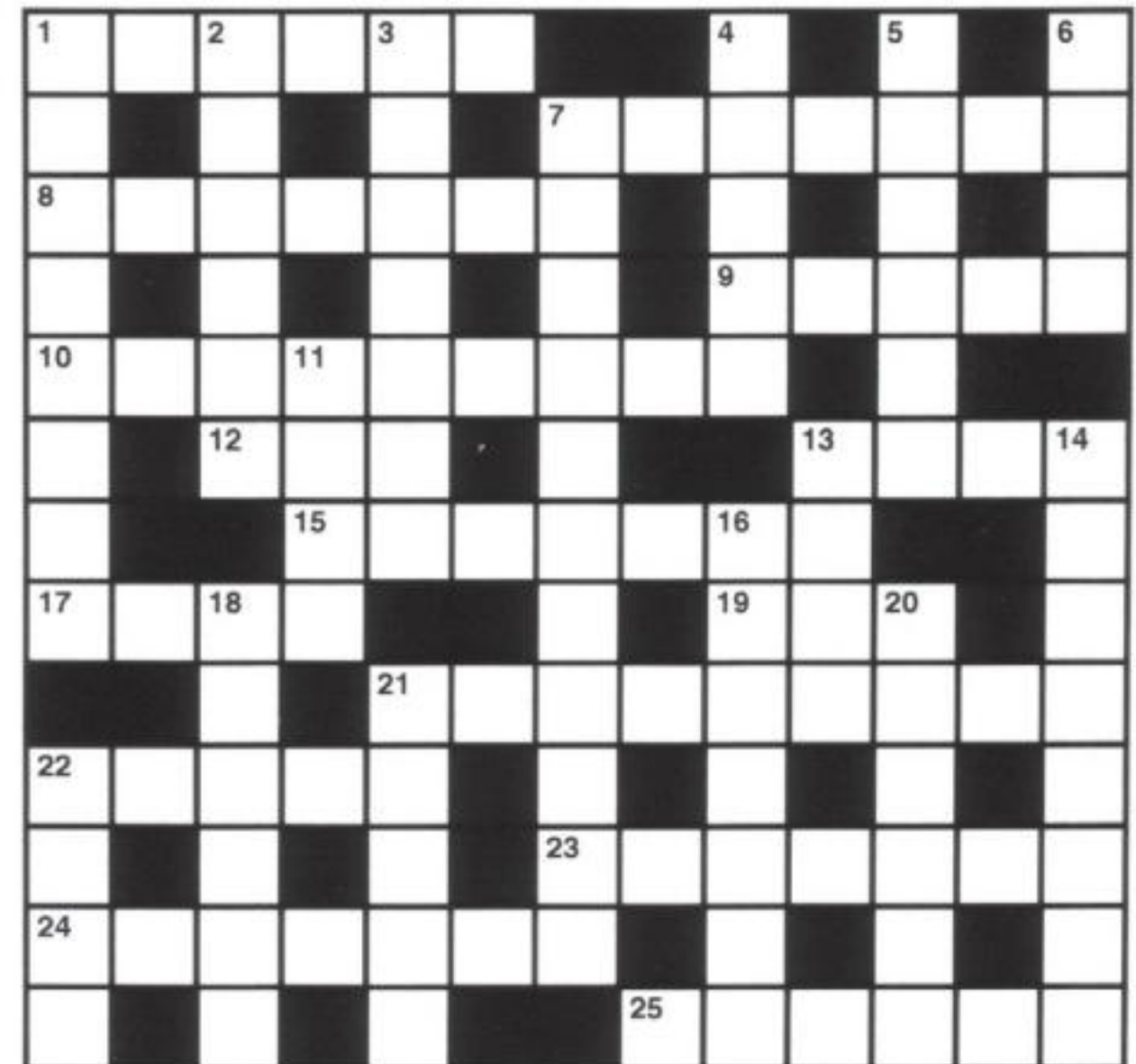
- 1 Peeled (8)
- 2 Bowman (6)
- 3 Clothing (7)
- 4 Defy (5)
- 5 In flames (6)
- 6 Network (4)
- 7 Reference (11)
- 11 Belt (4)
- 13 Smile (4)
- 14 In a squalid manner (8)
- 16 Raise (7)
- 18 Lash (6)
- 20 Engraves (6)
- 21 Rub (5)
- 22 Resound (4)

Cryptic Clues Across

- 1 Avoid the leakage (6)
- 7 The suitability of a good physical condition (7)
- 8 Piece of land or the machine to use on it (7)
- 9 A girl to go astray (5)
- 10 The Spanish have a tale men put about as basic (9)
- 12 Either way she's in seduction (3)
- 13 The waters of the mysterious East (4)
- 15 Sound pleased it's back as a foothold (7)
- 17 Join up the top of the dress (4)
- 19 Not a gross trap (3)
- 21 It's an idea that could hit the signal on the head (9)
- 22 Send a message that one road needs replanning (5)
- 23 Does she lure men to death through her knowledge or her welcoming garland? (7)
- 24 Gyrated and came to grief (7)
- 25 Some of mine are reported to be closer (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

- 1 Aren't yet turning to prayer (8)
- 2 Cowardly number to crow after (6)
- 3 Forbearing to breathe hard around the bond (7)
- 4 Take an illicit amount of metal, it's said (5)
- 5 Give a description of the French penalty (6)
- 6 Enquires whether the fool has taken the last of the drink (4)
- 7 But is it in a brotherly tradition to really rant about after the head of the family? (11)
- 11 Think about Australian birds (4)
- 13 Throw out what we, as an afterthought, put up? (4)
- 14 See with pride how it gets faster (8)
- 16 Take away the confidence of 12 across, ever upset (7)
- 18 Abduct the youngster with a pile (6)
- 20 A real lieutenant could get higher (6)
- 21 Drilled without enthusiasm (5)
- 22 The procedure was said to be correct (4)



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05

Puzzles



Sudoku

The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub-grids that compose the grid (also called "boxes", "blocks", "regions", or "sub-squares") contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

	9			7	4	5		2
3	2				6			
		4			5	6	3	
		7	9				1	8
6			5		3			9
8	3				1	2		
	5	1	4			8		
				1			9	7
4		8	6	2			5	

	2	7				1	6	
				6				
	3	5		7	1			9
			6			3		2
2								6
9		6			3			
8			4	5		2	9	
				1				
	6	4				5	1	

5			6			1		
	9	1	4				8	
	4					7		3
					2	9		
1								2
		6	5					
3		8					7	
	7				5	6	9	
		5			7			4

This week's solutions

9	1	5	8	6	7	3	2	4
2	7	4	3	1	5	6	9	8
3	6	8	2	9	4	5	7	1
4	2	6	5	3	9	8	1	7
1	5	9	7	8	6	4	3	2
7	8	3	1	4	2	9	5	6
8	4	2	9	5	1	7	6	3
6	9	1	4	7	3	2	8	5
5	3	7	6	2	8	1	4	9

3	6	4	9	8	2	5	1	7
5	9	2	3	1	7	6	8	4
8	7	1	4	5	6	2	9	3
9	4	6	7	2	3	8	5	1
2	5	3	1	4	8	9	7	6
7	1	8	6	9	5	3	4	2
6	3	5	8	7	1	4	2	9
1	8	9	2	6	4	7	3	5
4	2	7	5	3	9	1	6	8

4	7	8	6	2	9	1	5	3
2	6	3	1	5	8	4	9	7
9	5	1	4	3	7	8	2	6
8	3	9	7	4	1	2	6	5
6	1	2	5	8	3	7	4	9
5	4	7	9	6	2	3	1	8
7	8	4	2	9	5	6	3	1
3	2	5	8	1	6	9	7	4
1	9	6	3	7	4	5	8	2

Quick Crossword
Across: 1 Stars 7 Tremble 8 Receive 9 Reach
10 Presented 12 Ran 13 Gens 15 Stammer 17
Dash 19 Lie 21 Consented 22 Earth
23 Abashed 24 Hopful 25 Jersey
Down: 1 Stripped 2 Archer 3 Raiment 4 Beard
5 Abaze 6 Mesh 7 Testimonial 11 Sash 13 Gm
14 Sordidly 16 Elevate 18 Stripe 20 Eches
21 Chafe 22 Echo
Cryptic Crossword
Across: 1 Escape 7 Fitness 8 Tractor 9 Amiss
10 Elemental 12 Nun 13 Seas 15 Stirrup
17 Yoke 19 Net 21 Brainwave 22 Radio
23 Lorelei 24 Tragedy 25 Nearer
Down: 1 Entreaty 2 Craven 3 Patient 4 Steal
5 Define 6 Asks 7 Fraternally 11 Muse 13 Spew
14 Speedier 16 Unnerve 18 Kidnap 20 Teller
21 Bored 22 File

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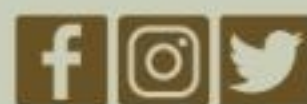


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Free Grand National supplement in today's

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Saturday April 8th

	BBC1	BBC2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
	Live Davis Cup Tennis, 1.10pm 	11.00 Ilo Ilo, 12am 	Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway, 7pm 	Dredd, 10.35pm 	Football on 5: The Championship, 9pm 
DAYTIME	6.00 Breakfast (S) 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live (S) 11.30 Mary Berry Everyday (S)(R) 12.00 Football Focus (S) 1.00 BBC News; Weather (S) 1.10 Live Davis Cup Tennis (S) 4.30 Final Score (S) 5.15 FILM Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (2008) (PG) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Ben Stiller. (S) 6.35 BBC News (S) 6.45 BBC Regional News; Weather (S) 6.50 Pointless Celebrities (S)	11.00 Homes Under the Hammer (S)(R) 12.00 Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well (S)(R) 12.30 The Best Dishes Ever (S)(R) 1.00 Golf: The Masters Highlights (S) 2.00 Flog It! (S)(R) 3.00 University Challenge (S)(R) 3.30 Only Connect (S)(R) 4.00 Gardeners' World (S)(R) 4.30 Live Davis Cup Tennis (S) 5.30 Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby (S)(R) 6.30 Hotel Armadillo: Natural World (S)(R)	10.25 James Martin's French Adventure (S)(R) 11.25 Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury (S)(R) 12.00 ITV News; Weather (S) 12.10 FILM Carry On at Your Convenience (1971) (PG) (S) 2.00 ITV Racing - Grand National Festival (S) 4.35 ITV Racing Live: The Grand National (S) 6.15 ITV Regional News; Weather (S) 6.20 ITV News (S) 6.30 New You've Been Framed! (S)(R)	7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond (S)(R) 8.30 Frasier (S)(R) 9.30 The Big Bang Theory (S)(R) 10.55 The Simpsons (S)(R) 12.25 Extreme Food (S) 1.00 Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights (S) 2.30 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun (S)(R) 3.30 Location, Location, Location (S)(R) 4.30 Grand Designs (S)(R) 5.35 Channel 4 News (S) 6.05 Escape to the Chateau (S)(R)	6.00 Milkshake! 10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S) 10.40 Access (S) 10.50 Police Interceptors: Unleashed (S)(R) 11.20 Police Interceptors (S)(R) 1.20 On Benefits: Life on the Dole (S)(R) 4.20 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords A woman whose unruly tenants try to sue her after being served an eviction notice. (S)(R) 5.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away (S)(R)
7	7.40 Who Dares Wins Game show in which strangers pair up to win money. Last in the series. (S)	7.30 Golf: The Masters Live Coverage of the third day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year continues. (S)	7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway The popular duo's entertainment show bows out in a live finale from Disney World, Florida(S)	7.00 Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service The actress visits Hillsborough Castle, the Queen's official residence in Northern Ireland. (S)(R)	7.10 NCIS: Los Angeles Part one of two. Kensi is a suspect in the murder of a marine sergeant. (S)
8	8.25 Casualty Connie makes an effort to show how much she cares on Grace's birthday. (S)		8.30 An Evening with Take That A performance by the pop group, featuring new material and special versions of some of their most popular hits. (S)	8.00 FILM Battleship (2012) (12) Sci-fi adventure, with Taylor Kitsch, Liam Neeson and Alexander Skarsgard. Edited for language and violence. (S)	8.00 NCIS The Secretary of the Navy's daughter is kidnapped. (S) 8.55 5 News Weekend (S)
9	9.15 All Round to Mrs Brown's Ross Kemp, Kevin Bridges and his mother Patricia, Steve Backshall and Pixie Lott join Agnes and her brood in the studio for a chat. (S)		9.35 FILM King Kong (2005) (12) Peter Jackson's remake of the fantasy adventure, with Naomi Watts and Jack Black. (S)		9.00 Football on 5: The Championship George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship. (S)
10	10.15 BBC News; Weather; (S) National Lottery Update (S) 10.30 Match of the Day Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches. (S)		10.35 ITV News; Weather (S) 10.45 FILM King Kong (2005) (12) Concluded. (S)	10.35 FILM Dredd (2012) (18) A law enforcer in a post-apocalyptic city must fight his way out of a tower block dominated by a ruthless crime lord. Sci-fi thriller, starring Karl Urban. (S)	10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush (S) 10.30 The Funny Side of Love and Sex Including thoughts and opinions from Johnny Vegas, Nish Kumar and Nina Wadia. (S)
11	11.55 FILM I Am Number Four (2011) (12) Sci-fi thriller, starring Alex Pettyfer and Timothy Olyphant. (S)				11.30 Comedy Bigmouths with Russell Kane (S) 11.55 Access Showbiz news and gossip. (S)
AFTER 12	1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead (S) 1.45 BBC News (S)	12.00 FILM Ilo Ilo (2013) (12) Drama, starring Yann Yann Yeo. 1.35 This Is BBC Two (S) 5.35 An Island Parish (S) (R)	1.15 Jackpot247 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (S)(R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen	12.25 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S)(R) 1.15 Million Pound Motors (S)(R) 2.10 Hollyoaks (S)(R) 4.15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent (S)(R) 5.10 Kirstie's Vintage Gems (S)(R) 5.20 Fifteen to One (S)(R)	12.00 SuperCasino 3.10 Inside St Paul's Cathedral (S)(R) 4.00 Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild (S)(R) 4.50 House Doctor (S)(R) 5.15 Wildlife SOS (S)(R) 5.40 Angels of Jarm (S)(R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

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DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 You've Been Framed! Gold **6.20** Emmerdale **8.50** Coronation Street **11.15** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.45** Britain's Got Talent: Stephen's Top 10 Unbelievable Talents **1.45** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.15** Hairspray Live! **4.45** FILM: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) (U) Family comedy sequel, starring Anne Hathaway. **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50** FILM: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) (U) Concluded. **7.00** Scorpion **8.00** FILM: Burlesque (2010) (12) Musical drama, starring Cher and Christina Aguilera. **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** FILM: Burlesque (2010) (12) Concluded. **10.35** Celebrity Juice **11.15** Family Guy **12.40** American Dad! **1.40** The Cleveland Show **2.05** Ibiza Weekender **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Judge Judy **6.40** Murder, She Wrote **7.30** Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide **9.30** FILM: The Railway Children (1970) (U) Period family drama, starring Jenny Agutter. **10.30** FYI Daily **10.35** FILM: The Railway Children (1970) (U) Concluded. **11.45** Heidi **1.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.55** Rosemary & Thyme **4.55** Endeavour **7.00** Lewis **11.00** Les Dawson Forever **12.00** Colditz **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 The Silk Road **8.00** Dust Storm **8.45** Wild Scotland **9.00** FILM: Department Q: The Keeper Of Lost Causes (2013) (15) Murder mystery, starring Nikolaj Lie Kaas. **10.30** Top of the Pops: 1983 **11.40** Psychedelic Britannia **12.45** Totally 60s Psychedelic Rock at the BBC **1.45** Pink Floyd Beginnings 1967 - 1972 **2.45** Psychedelic Britannia **3.45** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Rude(ish) Tube **6.45** How I Met Your Mother **7.35** Baby Daddy **8.30** Black-ish **9.00** Made in Chelsea **10.00** FILM: Clueless (1995) (12) Comedy, starring Alicia Silverstone. **12.00** Melissa & Joey **2.30** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** FILM: Transporter 2 (2005) (15) Action thriller sequel, starring Jason Statham. **10.45** Gogglebox **12.55** Rude Tube: Heroes and Villains **2.00** Naked Attraction **2.55** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.40** The Goldbergs **4.00** Baby Daddy **5.05** How I Met Your Mother

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Come Dine with Me **11.30** Homes by the Sea **12.35** Location, Location, Location **1.35** Coast vs Country **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.20** Come Dine with Me **8.00** Hunt for the Arctic Ghost Ship **9.00** Titanic: The New Evidence **10.05** The World's Most Extreme **11.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **12.15** Father Ted **1.15** Hunt for the Arctic Ghost Ship **2.20** Titanic: The New Evidence **3.20** 8 Out of 10 Cats Uncut **4.00** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Catch That Kid (2004) (PG) Comedy adventure, starring Kristen Stewart. **1.00** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) (15) Comedy, starring Matthew Broderick. **3.05** Dragonball Evolution (2009) (PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Justin Chatwin. **4.45** Tooth Fairy (2010) (PG) Family comedy, starring Dwayne Johnson. **6.55** Tower Heist (2011) (12) Crime comedy, with Ben Stiller and Eddie Murphy. **9.00** The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2 (2012) (12) Romantic fantasy sequel, with Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson. **11.15** An American Werewolf in London (1981) (18) Horror comedy, with David Naughton. **1.15** Isolation (2005) (15) **3.10** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.10 Scrapheap Challenge **8.00** Deadly 60 **10.00** Top Gear **12.00** Traffic Cops **2.00** Storage Hunters UK **2.30** Storage Hunters **3.00** Storage Hunters UK **3.30** Storage Hunters **4.00** Storage Hunters UK **4.30** Storage Hunters **5.00** Top Gear **7.00** Not Going Out Christmas Special **8.00** Not Going Out **9.00** FILM: Lethal Weapon 3 (1992) (15) Action thriller sequel, with Mel Gibson and Danny Glover. **11.20** Live at the Apollo **12.20** Alan Davies: As Yet Untitled **1.20** Mock the Week **2.00** Not Going Out Christmas Special **3.00** Suits **4.00** Close

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 Secret Army **11.00** Sharpe **1.00** Secret Army **5.00** FILM: 10 Little Indians (1974) (PG) Agatha Christie mystery, starring Oliver Reed. **7.00** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **8.00** The Mrs Bradley Mysteries **9.00** Taggart **11.05** Waking the Dead **1.10** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **2.10** Sharpe **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Hawaii Five-O **7.45** Monkey Business **8.15** Game Changers **8.45** The Fantasy Football Club **9.45** Soccer AM **11.30** Live Premier League. Pre-match build-up to Tottenham Hotspur v Watford. **12.30** The F1 Show **1.00**

Wild Things **2.00** Modern Family **3.00** Gillette Soccer Saturday **5.15** Supergirl **6.10** The Flash **7.05** MacGyver **8.00** FILM: Godzilla (1998) (PG) Monster adventure remake, starring Matthew Broderick. **10.40** The Simpsons **11.10** NCIS: Los Angeles **12.10** A League of Their Own: Unseen **1.10** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **2.05** Police 10/7 **5.00** Stop, Search, Seize

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets **9.00** The West Wing **2.00** Cold Case **4.00** House **6.00** Becoming Warren Buffett **8.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Game of Thrones **11.00** Last Week Tonight with John Oliver **11.35** Real Time with Bill Maher **12.45** FILM: Manhunt (2013) (15) **2.45** Silicon Valley **3.20** Banshee **4.15** Networks of Power with Sir Christopher Meyer

W SKY: 109

6.10 Crisis **7.00** Traffic Cops **8.00** The Bill **1.00** EastEnders **3.30** Peggy Mitchell: Queen of the Vic **4.00** Outnumbered **8.00** John Bishop: In Conversation with Louise Redknapp **9.00** FILM: Coming to America (1981) (15) Comedy, starring Eddie Murphy. **11.20** Grimm **12.15** Motorway Cops: A Traffic Cops Special **1.15** The Musketeers **2.15** Crisis **3.00** Home Shopping

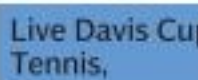
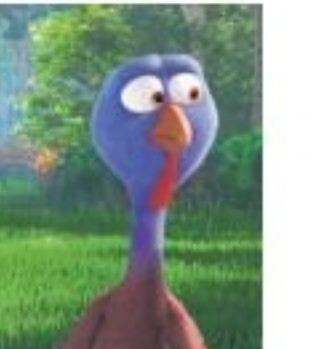
GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Ever Decreasing Circles **8.40** The Interviews **9.40** The Two Ronnies **11.15** Last of the Summer Wine **1.10** Boomers **1.45** Only Fools and Horses **9.00** Gavin & Stacey **11.00** Bottom **11.40** Filthy, Rich and Catflap **1.10** Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle **2.30** Steve Coogan: The Man Who Thinks He's It **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Live Formula 1. The third practice session for the Chinese Grand Prix. **6.10** Great F1 Cars **6.15** Football Gold **6.45** Premier League 100 Club **7.45** Game Changers **8.15** Premier League Preview **8.45** The Fantasy Football Club **9.45** Soccer AM **11.30** Live Premier League. Pre-match build-up to Tottenham Hotspur v Watford. **12.30** Live Premier League. Tottenham Hotspur v Watford (kick-off 12.30pm). **3.00** Gillette Soccer Saturday **5.15** Live EFL Sheffield Wednesday v Newcastle United (kick-off 5.30pm). **8.00** The Masters - Live. Coverage of the third day from the Augusta National in Georgia. **12.30** Sporting Triumphs **1.00** Premier League Highlights **2.30** Premier League Legends **3.00** Premier League Highlights

Sunday April 9th

	BBC1	BBC2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
	 Countryfile , 7pm 	 Live Davis Cup Tennis , 1pm 	 Five Gold Rings , 7pm 	 Homeland , 9pm 	 Free Birds , 1.50pm 
DAYTIME	6.00 Breakfast (S) 7.30 Match of the Day (S)(R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show (S) 10.00 The Big Questions (S) 11.00 Wanted Down Under (S) 12.00 Bargain Hunt (S)(R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather (S) 1.15 Homes Under the Hammer (S)(R) 2.15 Countryfile Spring Diaries (S)(R) 3.00 Flog It! (S)(R) 4.00 Escape to the Country (S) 5.00 Songs of Praise (S) 5.35 Galapagos (S)(R) 6.35 BBC News (S) 6.50 BBC Regional News (S)	6.05 The Beechgrove Garden (S) 6.35 Around the World in 80 Gardens (S)(R) 7.35 Gardeners' World (S)(R) 8.05 Countryfile (S)(R) 9.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites (S) 10.45 Triathlon World Series Highlights (S) 12.15 MOTD2 Extra (S) 1.00 Live Davis Cup Tennis France v Great Britain (S) 6.30 Golf: The Masters Live Coverage of the fourth day from the Augusta National in Georgia. (S)	9.25 ITV News (S) 9.30 Countrywise: Guide to Britain (S)(R) 10.00 Secret Dealers (S)(R) 11.00 Wild Australia with Ray Mears (S)(R) 11.30 ITV News; Weather (S) 11.40 Who's Doing the Dishes? (S)(R) 12.45 The Chase (S)(R) 1.45 FILM Goldfinger (1964) (PG) (S) 3.55 An Evening with Take That (S)(R) 5.00 Little Big Shots (S)(R) 6.00 ITV Regional News; Weather (S) 6.10 ITV News (S) 6.30 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule (S)(R)	6.15 The King of Queens (S)(R) 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond (S)(R) 8.30 Frasier (S)(R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch Presented by Tim Lovejoy and Simon Rimmer. (S) 12.30 The Simpsons (S)(R) 1.25 Gogglesprogs (S)(R) 2.30 Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix Highlights Action from the second race of the season. (S) 4.45 FILM The Boxtrolls (2014) (PG) (S) 6.35 Channel 4 News (S)	6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S)(R) 10.30 Football on 5: The Championship (S)(R) 11.25 Football on 5: Goal Rush (S)(R) 11.55 The Gadget Show (S)(R) 12.55 Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud (S)(R) 1.50 FILM Free Birds (2013) (U) (S) 3.30 5 News Weekend (S) 3.35 FILM Fool's Gold (2008) (12) (S) 5.45 FILM PS I Love You (2007) (12) (S)
7	7.00 Countryfile The team are in Holderness in the east Riding of Yorkshire. (S)		7.00 Five Gold Rings Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield. (S)	7.00 Kevin McCloud's Escape to the Wild The Grand Designs presenter meets people who have quit the rat race to live simpler lives. (S)(R)	8.00 Playful Pups Make You Laugh Out Loud Internet videos featuring puppies. (S)
8	8.00 Antiques Roadshow Fiona Bruce presents the show from Pembroke Castle in South Wales. (S)		8.00 Vera A body is found buried on the Northumberland moors which could be a missing teenager. Last in the series. (S)	8.00 Spying on the Royals The conclusion of the two-part documentary about surveillance on Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson. (S)	8.55 5 News Weekend (S)
9	9.00 Line of Duty Kate is approached by a woman who claims to have been assaulted by Michael, while Steve challenges Roz's husband to vouch for her whereabouts on the night Tim Ifield disappeared. (S)			9.00 Homeland Keane and Saul join forces to shut down the campaign of disinformation, and things come to a head for Carrie and Quinn. (S)	9.00 When Chat Shows Go Horribly Wrong Gloria Hunniford narrates a compilation of talk show disasters, featuring Eamonn Holmes' infamous interview with David Blaine. (S)
10	10.00 BBC News (S) 10.20 BBC Regional News; Weather (S) 10.30 Match of the Day 2 Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action. (S)		10.00 ITV News; Weather (S) 10.20 Lethal Weapon The duo investigate the murder of a young model. (S)(R)	10.05 Gogglebox The households' opinions on recent TV. (S)(R)	
11	11.30 I'm Different: Let Me Drive The stories of two learner drivers on the autistic spectrum. (S)		11.15 The Nightly Show Best Bits (S) 11.45 Premiership Rugby Union Including highlights of Wasps v Northampton Saints.	11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy words and numbers quiz. (S)(R)	
AFTER 12	12.00 Weather for the Week Ahead (S) 12.05 BBC News (S)	12.00 FILM The Tempest (2010) (PG) Shakespearean fantasy, starring Helen Mirren. (S) 1.40 Sign Zone: Question Time (S)(R) 2.40 Holby City (S)(R) 3.40 This Is BBC Two (S)	12.40 Jackpot247 2.30 British Superbike Championship Highlights (S) 3.20 The Cube (S)(R) 4.10 ITV Nightscreen 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)	12.05 FILM The Guard (2011) (15) (S) 1.50 Great British Buildings: Restoration of the Year (S)(R) 2.45 Isis and the Battle for Iraq (S)(R) 3.40 Unreported World (S)(R) 4.05 Building the Dream (S) 5.05 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent (S)(R)	12.05 One Night With My Ex (S)(R) 1.00 SuperCasino 3.10 Law & Order: Criminal Intent (S)(R) 4.00 Criminals: Caught on Camera (S)(R) 4.50 House Doctor (S)(R) 5.15 Wildlife SOS (S)(R) 5.40 Angels of Jarm (S)(R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 The Hot Desk: Emma Willis **6.10** Emmerdale **9.00** Coronation Street **11.30** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **1.00** 2Awesome **1.05** 2Awesome: Guidance **1.40** 2Awesome: Fame High **2.00** 2Awesome: LA Story **2.10** 2Awesome: Side Effects **2.40** Mr Bean **3.50** FILM: Liar Liar (1997) (12) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey. **4.50** FYI Daily **4.55** FILM: Liar Liar (1997) (12) Concluded. **5.35** FILM: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) (PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Elijah Wood. **6.35** FYI Daily **6.40** FILM: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) (PG) Concluded. **9.00** FILM: Horrible Bosses (2011) (15) Comedy, starring Jason Bateman. **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** FILM: Horrible Bosses (2011) (15) Comedy, starring Jason Bateman. **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Vampire Diaries **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 On the Buses **6.25** FILM: The Railway Children (1970) (U) Period family drama, starring Jenny Agutter. **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** FILM: The Railway Children (1970) (U) Concluded. **8.35** Heartbeat **10.40** Murder, She Wrote **11.40** Heidi **1.40** Sherlock Holmes: The Eligible Bachelor **3.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Les Dawson Forever **11.05** FILM: Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007) (12) Historical drama sequel, starring Cate Blanchett. **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** FILM: Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007) (12) Concluded. **1.20** A Touch of Frost **3.00** May the Best House Win **4.45** On the Buses **5.40** ITV3 Nightscreen

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Britain at War: Imperial War Museums at 100 **8.00** Teenage Tommies **9.00** Horizon: Global Weirding **10.00** Folk Awards 2017: Highlights **11.00** Arena: Alone with Chrissie Hynde **12.30** The Story of Maths **1.30** The Bermuda Triangle: Beneath the Waves **2.30** Exposed: Magicians, Psychics and Frauds - Storyville **3.50** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.10** Rude(ish) Tube **6.35** Couples Come Dine with Me **8.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Made in Chelsea **12.00** The Goldbergs **1.00** Black-ish **1.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** FILM: Evolution (2001)

(PG) Sci-fi comedy, starring David Duchovny. **4.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** E4's Tattoo Artist of the Year **12.05** Celebrity First Dates **1.10** Naked Attraction **2.15** Bizarre ER **3.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.45** Hollyoaks

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Vet on the Hill **10.00** Walks with My Dog **11.00** Homes by the Med **12.05** Come Dine with Me **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.25** Come Dine with Me **8.00** How to Lose Weight Well **9.00** Father Ted **10.05** Man Down **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E **12.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **2.05** Man Down **3.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Uncut **3.50** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 The Black Shield of Falworth (1954) (U) Swashbuckling adventure, starring Tony Curtis. **1.00** Cutthroat Island (1995) (PG) Swashbuckling adventure, starring Geena Davis. **3.25** Avatar (2009) (12) Sci-fi adventure, starring Sam Worthington. **6.35** Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997) (PG) Action thriller sequel, starring Sandra Bullock. **9.00** The Other Woman (2014) (12) Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz. **11.10** Extract (2010) (15) Comedy, starring Jason Bateman. **12.55** The Insider (1999) (15) Fact-based drama, starring Al Pacino and Russell Crowe. **4.00** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.10 Scrapheap Challenge **8.00** Traffic Cops **9.00** Top Gear **10.00** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **11.00** Traffic Cops **12.00** Cops UK: Bodycam Squad **1.00** Lizard Lick Towing **2.00** Red Dwarf **4.00** Top Gear **7.00** Traffic Cops **8.00** Cops UK: Bodycam Squad **9.00** Live at the Apollo **10.00** Taskmaster **11.00** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **12.00** Crackanory **12.35** Mock the Week **1.55** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **2.45** Suits **4.00** Close

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 New Tricks **8.00** The Bill **12.00** David Copperfield **4.00** Catherine Cookson's The Secret **7.00** New Tricks **9.00** Silent Witness **11.15** Spooks **1.55** New Tricks **2.55** The Agatha Christie Hour **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Hour of Power **7.00** Futurama **9.30** Supergirl **10.30** The Flash **11.30** WWE Raw Hits **12.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. The build-up to Sunderland v Manchester United. **1.30** Modern Family **6.00** The

Simpsons **8.00** Wild Things **9.00** Hawaii Five-0 **10.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.00** MacGyver **12.00** The Blacklist: Redemption **1.00** Arrow **2.00** Police 10/7 **5.05** Stop, Search, Seize

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets **9.00** The West Wing **2.00** House **4.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Big Little Lies **10.05** Real Time with Bill Maher **11.15** The Trip to Spain **11.55** The Circus: Inside The Biggest Story On Earth **12.30** Billions **1.40** Westworld **2.55** Banshee **4.00** Networks of Power with Sir Christopher Meyer

W SKY: 109

6.10 Crisis **7.00** Motorway Cops **8.00** Bondi Rescue **9.00** Celebrity MasterChef **1.00** Heston's Fantastical Food **5.00** FILM: Spy Kids (2001) (U) Family adventure, starring Antonio Banderas. **7.00** One Born Every Minute **8.00** Dr Christian Will See You Now **9.00** John Bishop: In Conversation with Louise Redknapp **10.00** Doctor Foster **11.20** Louis Theroux's LA Stories **12.40** Traffic Cops **1.40** Betty White's Off Their Rockers **2.05** Crisis **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Ever Decreasing Circles **7.30** One Foot in the Grave **8.50** Only Fools and Horses **10.00** Harry Hill in Professor Branestawm Returns **11.20** Boomers **12.00** Only Fools and Horses **5.20** Henry IX **6.00** Only Fools and Horses **9.00** Gavin & Stacey **11.00** I'm Alan Partridge **12.20** The Thick of It **1.40** Jam **2.10** Nighty Night **2.45** Human Remains **3.20** One Foot in the Grave **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Premier League Highlights **9.00** The Sunday Supplement **10.30** Goals on Sunday **12.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. The build-up to Sunderland v Manchester United. **1.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Sunderland v Manchester United (kick-off 1.30pm). **3.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Everton v Leicester City (kick-off 4.00pm). **7.00** The Masters - Live. The final day from the Augusta National. **12.30** The Masters Official Film - Crenshaw 1995 **1.00** Goals on Sunday **2.00** Premier League Years **4.00** Sporting Heroes: Kriss Akabusi Interviews Daley Thompson **5.00** Premier League 100 Club **5.30** Spanish Football Gold





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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Fantastic Mr Fox and friends

By Samantha McGregor

A NEW adaptation of Roald Dahl's story Fantastic Mr Fox takes to the Oxford stage his Easter.

Created to celebrate what would have been the writer's 100th birthday, the show is staged at the Oxford Playhouse from Tuesday, April 11, to Saturday, April 15.

This musical adaptation delivers family fun at its finest, with funky modern costumes and impressive songs for a fun filled Easter show recognising and celebrating the power of friendship.

This brilliantly witty tale of the clever Mr Fox outsmarting three greedy farmers is brought to life on stage with live music and songs.

Accompanied by a barbershop quartet and band, the light-footed hero must overcome all kinds of obstacles to save all his furry friends.

As the farmers approach from above ground, can he hatch a plan with his band of friends and dig everyone out?

Putting all his agility, cunning and stealth to the test, and his friendships too, can he still outfox the farmers?

Marking the centenary year of the world's number one storyteller, this brand new family show is a playful retelling of Dahl's much-loved book.

With Dahl's stories available in 58

Mr Fox and friends are coming to the Oxford Playhouse next week
Picture: Manuel Harlan



languages and having sold more than 250million books, his stories are known the world over with many having been adapted for stage and screen.

The theatrical adaptation of Fantastic Mr Fox is for children aged five and over and was created by Nuffield and Curve in association

with Lyric Hammersmith.

Dahl's book was originally published in 1970 and made into a film in 2009 with voices by George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Bill Murray, Willem Dafoe, Michael Gambon, and Owen Wilson.

He started publishing books in the early 1960s - among those that have

also been huge successes on stage and screen include the BFG, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Matilda.

Tickets for Fantastic Mr Fox at Oxford Playhouse start at £12 and are available from the ticket office on 01865 305305 or book online at oxford-playhouse.com

Join a 70's party

THEATRE: Mike Leigh's classic tale Abigail's Party takes to the stage at the Oxford Playhouse from Monday, running until Saturday, April 8.

It stars Amanda Abbington, who is best known for playing Mary in Sherlock, and is directed by Sarah Esdaile.

Tickets cost from £15 and are available from the Box Office on 01865 305305 or view oxfordplayhouse.com

First UK tour

MUSICAL: The New Theatre has announced it will host a production of new musical Son of a Preacher Man as it embarks on its first UK tour.

The show, set in the 1960s, with music by Dusty Springfield and directed and choreographed by Craig Revel Horwood, takes to the stage from October 24 to 28.

It's the story of The Preacher Man, the owner of a Soho joint where the kids danced the night away to the latest crazes and dared to dream of love.

Strictly Come Dancing judge Revel Horwood said: "I am delighted to bring to life for the very first time this wonderful story created by Warner Brown, with soulful songs from the legendary Dusty Springfield's iconic music catalogue."

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Feast on sound of fiddles

By Samantha McGregor

IN 1994 Feast of Fiddles was formed for a one-off concert ensemble – this year the group is embarking on its 24th spring tour.

And kicking off the tour, the band will perform at Nettlebed Village Club – the place where they came together for the first time – for two nights on April 3 and 4.

Taking in 10 venues this month, this latest tour coincides with the release of their sixth studio album entitled *Sleight of Elbow*.

And it's something of a departure for the band as it features a lot of original compositions and only one traditional tune.

The title track of *Feast of Fiddles* latest offering is one of two pieces by guitarist Martin Vincent which was first aired during the 2016 spring tour – the tour that Martin missed because he was in hospital having a heart valve fitted.

McBrides is a tune from the band *Moving Hearts* while Scottish band *The McCalmans* provide the first of only three songs on this recording – *Smugglers Song*, a rousing tale of smugglers going about their business complete with engaging chorus.

Previously likened to a “group of geography teachers”, fiddlers Peter



Feast of Fiddles are back in Nettlebed
Picture: Wandering River

Knight of Steeleye Span, Chris Leslie of Fairport Convention, Phil Beer, Show of Hands, Brian McNeill of Battlefield Band, Ian Cutler of Bully Wee, Tom Leary of Lindisfarne and Garry Blakeley of Band of Two, add their extensive range of fiddle playing styles to the rock back-line of guitars, keyboards, sax and accordion – all held together by legendary drummer Dave Mattacks.

Talking to the Oxfordshire

Guardian, Feast of Fiddles said: “Feast of Fiddles was born at Nettlebed Folk Club following a discussion between band leader Hugh Crabtree and club organiser Mike Sanderson.

“Both agreed it was a good idea to put half a dozen of the country’s leading fiddle players in front of Hugh’s ceilidh band.

“Hugh and the ceilidh band lived in and around Reading and Hugh had a long involvement with the club and the

local live music scene.

“Now, 24 years later the gig that started as a one off has become something of a folk-rock institution.

“Audiences love to see the well-known musicians in a different and sometimes quite challenging context.

“They also love the very wide range of musical genres touched by the band.”

For more information view feast-offiddles.co.uk

Auntie goes on sale

THEATRE: Tickets have gone on sale for the stage version of David Walliams’ *Awful Auntie*.

It’s the story of Stella who goes to London with her parents, but wakes up three months later with only her Aunt Alberta who can tell her what happened.

But is all she is being told true?

The show comes to Oxford’s New Theatre from October 11 to 14.

For more call 0844 871320 or view atgtickets.com/oxford

Feastival line-up

FESTIVAL: Food and family festival The Big Feastival has announced some of its line-up for this summer’s event.

Taking to the stage over the August bank holiday weekend are musicians including Hacienda Classical, Madness, Olly Murs and De La Soul.

While celebrity chefs Rick Stein and Antonio Carluccio are also on the bill along with the Great British Bake-Off winner from 2016.

The Big Feastival takes place at Alex James Farm in the Cotswolds. For more view bigfeastival.com

Email your entertainment news to jamesr@taylornewspapers.co.uk

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Unique way to honour 100th anniversary

By Samantha McGregor

A LIFE-SIZE horse puppet from the hit production *War Horse* has made its first visit to Oxford to help launch its city premiere.

The National Theatre's acclaimed production of *War Horse*, based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo will be staged at Oxford's New Theatre from December 13 to January 6, 2018 as part of a major UK tour.

Last week Joey, the life-size equine puppet from *War Horse* made a special early morning appearance at Oxford University's Bodleian Library followed by a puppetry demonstration at the New Theatre.

Joey and Songman then travelled to Woodstock to help launch the Cotswold Hare Trail at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum alongside Toyah Willcox.

War Horse is the powerful story of a young boy called Albert and his beloved horse, Joey, who was requisitioned to fight for the British in the First World War.

Caught in enemy crossfire, Joey ends up serving on both sides during the war before landing in No Man's Land, while Albert, not old enough to enlist, embarks on a treacherous mission to find his horse and bring him home.

War Horse is the remarkable tale of courage, loyalty and friendship, and is brought to life by ground-breaking puppetry by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company.

War Horse was adapted for stage by Nick Stafford and directed by Marianne Elliott and Tom Morris.

Producer Kash Bennet said: 'We are absolutely delighted to be bringing *War Horse* to the New Theatre.

The cast of *War Horse* warm up in Oxford ahead of the Christmas show



'We hope that with Joey's appearances in the city, we can bring the people of Oxfordshire a taste of the theatrical magic and artistry that Oxford audiences can look forward to with this very special show.'

Dean Stewart, General Manager at the New Theatre said: 'The reaction from our audience has been

overwhelming and tickets have been cantering out the door.

'It is an outstanding production that has enthralled audiences around the world, and I am sure it will do the same here in the city of dreaming spires later in the year.'

War Horse ran for eight successful years in London, and has been seen by

over 7 million people worldwide since its premiere at the National Theatre in 2007.

The tour of *War Horse* coincides with the Centenary commemorations of the end of the First World War.

For more information or tickets view atgtickets.com/oxford or call 0844 871 3020.

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Thame Country Fair Easter Sunday & Monday April 16th & 17th 2017 Open Daily 10am – 6pm

Three action packed main arenas are at the Easter Thame Game & Country Fair. Looking for excitement and a superb day out over Easter, then join us on Sunday and Monday April 16th – 17th at the Thame Showground, OX9 3JL.

Nathan Marshalls Free Spirit Show joins us for the first time with a stunning display of horsemanship & falconry. Completing the line up in the Andy Singleton arena are the Pony Club with their Mounted Games, the Horseboarding and the Scurry Racing Championships.

The Countryside and World of Dog arenas both host a full day's schedule. Shire horses and Falconry, Gun Dogs, dog display teams name a few of the outstanding displays. Moving around the showground, there's such a lot to see and do.

Have a go at a wide range of Country Sports such as Falconry, Fishing, Archery, Shooting, Dog Handling and join in the competitions. Enjoy the Food Show where there's even chefs on stage, the Craft Village and the Chainsaw Carving competitions.

Yes there's lots to see, lots to do and lots to buy. A superb family day out at the Thame Game & Country Fair at Thame Showground, Kingsey Road, Thame, Oxon, OX9 3JL

Sunday & Monday April 16th & 17th
10am – 6pm Daily

Prices on the day are: Adults £14, Over 65s £13 and Children £4. Reduced price advance tickets available from:

Livingheritagecountryshows.com
Tel: 01283 820548

Join in with 'Auto Science' fun at the British Motor Museum this Easter!

Visitors are invited to join in with some 'cracking' fun activities this Easter at the British Motor Museum from 8 – 23 April. From interactive science shows to some 'egg-tastic' fun with Shaun the Sheep, there's plenty to keep the whole family entertained. So don't miss out - book Museum tickets online today!

Visitors can watch science being brought to life in a 25 minute Sublime Science Show, from Monday 10 – Thursday 13 April & Tuesday 18 – Friday 21 April, at 11am, 12pm, 2pm & 3pm. These shows are full of cool interactive demonstrations and hands on activities where visitors will get the chance to make smoke rings, bubbles and slime! Also on these dates is 'Technic Challenge', a drop-in activity (10am to 3pm) where children can get hands-on and design, build and test their own LEGO® Technic machines. They can then race them along the 'Track' with the fastest car of the day winning the title 'Champion Designer' as well as a small prize.

Also available each day throughout the Easter holidays is the Auto Science 'Secret Trail' which visitors can complete to discover the secrets of making cars, and Family Tours with the 'Mad Scientist' available every day at 10:45am and 1:30pm.

Easter wouldn't be Easter without a traditional Easter Egg hunt! Visitors can help Shaun the Sheep and his flock find the eggs hidden around the Museum. For those who like a crafty activity they can have a go at 'hatching your own car!'. These activities are only available over the Easter Weekend from 14 – 17 April.

Easter visitors can also enter the Museum's Shaun the Sheep Selfie competition, simply take a selfie in the Museum wearing a Shaun the Sheep headband to be in with a chance

of winning Aardman's brand new Shaun the Sheep DVD, 'Spoilsport'. This new DVD, on sale from 10 April, offers even more outrageous inventiveness, sheepish shenanigans and panic in the pasture. Don't miss your appointment for more fun with Shaun the Sheep.

Emma Rawlinson, Life Long Learning Officer for the British Motor Museum stated "With a whole host of family friendly activities including shows, trails and egg hunt, we have plenty on offer this Easter to keep everyone entertained whatever the weather!" All activities are included in the Museum admission price and no pre-booking is required. During busy periods, however, all activities will be on a timed ticket basis and subject to availability, as places are limited. To avoid disappointment please check on arrival. Online Museum tickets are now available, see website for full details. For more information about Easter activities please visit www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk or call 01926 641188.



Spring Lamb at Millets Farm



From next week Millets in house butchery begin their seasonal offering of fresh Spring Lamb.

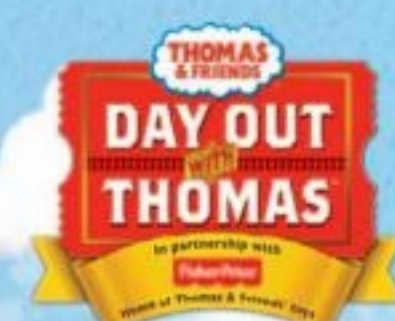
This exceptional time of year is celebrated with counter displays offering cuts of Lamb both "on and off" the bone as well as weather dependant offerings such as Lamb Burgers, kebabs and marinated Lamb dishes providing the weather stays fair!

Daren Fisher – Millets Farm.

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Easter Sunday 16 and Bank Hol. Monday 17 April

Beale Park
Nr. Reading Berkshire RG8 9NW

10am - 5pm each day

The inaugural Easter Country Fair has something for all the family. All day entertainment will include Jez Avery's Stunt Bikes and Buggies the 'FANY's' Historical Re-enactment on Horseback Display Team birds of prey and owl displays ✦ terrier racing ✦ children's entertainer Devilstick Peat plus Circus Skills Workshop ✦ the goat show including bottle feeding lambs and kids ✦ children's petting pens ✦ historical re-enactment and demonstrations of rural skills for you to enjoy and much, much more. Plus arts, crafts, food, drink and gifts marquees as well as outside trade stands.

Fully catered and with a licensed bar

And on Monday we are proud to host The Companion Dog Show so bring along a canine friend and have a go (all proceeds from entries go to Marie Curie)

Well behaved dogs on a lead welcome at this show but not in marquees with food stands please.

admission: £9.50; Concessions: £8; Child £4 (5-16) Family: £25 (2 adult + 2 children)
admission discounts at oakleighfairs.co.uk/ticketoffice



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- Craft Village • Food Glorious Food
- Lots of Children's Entertainment and attractions

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Easter Sunday & Monday April 16th & 17th
Open 10.00am - 6.00pm

Thame Showground, Kingsey Road, Thame, Oxon OX9 3JL
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Mon, Apr 3 - Sat, Apr 8
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford

ABIGAIL'S PARTY

Amanda Abbington stars in Mike Leigh's undisputed classic, Abigail's Party. It's 40 years since the appalling Beverly first put Donna Summer on the turntable, stacked a plate with little cheesy-pineapple sticks, plied her guests with alcohol, cigarettes and Demis Roussos and slow-danced her way across the shag-pile into theatrical history. The drinks party from hell begins when she and husband Laurence invite round new neighbours, Tony and Ange, along with nervous divorcee Sue; jittery about the bash her teenage daughter, Abigail, is throwing up the road. As that party reportedly gets out of hand, this one too descends into chaos, and comedy, as drama and tragedy combine into an iconic piece of theatre. Amanda Abbington is best-known for playing Mary Morstan in Sherlock, Miss Mardle in Mr Selfridge and DS Jo Moffat in Cuffs. Directed by Sarah Esdaile (Talking Heads).



Cat on a Hot Tin Roof), this new production of Mike Leigh's legendary play is as hilarious and horribly compelling as ever.

Fri, Apr 7, 7.30pm

Oxford Playhouse, Oxford

JOHN OSBOURNE: 3

STORIES FROM RADIO 4
John Osborne has written and performed several spellbinding half-hour storytelling shows for Radio 4. They are funny, heart-warming and a masterclass in how to keep an audience captivated.

Sat, Apr 8, 11am & 2pm

Oxford Playhouse, Oxford

THREE

Watch as these flamboyant players burst from their wagon of forgotten fables to re-tell such stories as Rumpelstiltskin, Goldilocks and Grimm's Three Wanderers. These classic stories are brought to life with a flurry of original sing-a-long songs, live music and inventive storytelling.

Sat, Apr 8, 7pm

New Theatre, Oxford

CARO EMERALD

Since the release of her 2010 multi-platinum debut album 'Deleted Scenes From The Cutting Room Floor' Caro Emerald has fashioned her own niche. Gorgeous and stylish, Caro blends retro jazz



Tue, Apr 28 - Sat, Apr 22
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford

PYGMALION

with sampling and modern pop to create her signature sound.

Fri, Apr 14, 8pm

The Beacon, Wantage,

THE ZOOTS

Experience THE Sixties show that's wowing audiences around the world, and headlining venues from the Palladium to Old Trafford - with the spectacular sounds of The Zoots

Tue, Apr 18, 7pm

New Theatre, Oxford

BILLY OCEAN

Currently on an international tour, Billy Ocean will be appearing in Oxford in April 2017 where he will be performing all of his greatest hits from the new album and favourite tracks.

Tue Apr 18 - Sat, Apr 22

Oxford Playhouse, Oxford

PYGMALION

Over one hundred years after it was written, this radical new production explores one of the most celebrated comedies of the 20th

century, Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion.

Wed, Apr 19, 7pm

O2 Academy, Oxford

JOSH DOYLE

After making the move to Nashville, alt-rock singer songwriter Josh Doyle, formerly of the British band Dum Dums, is back for a UK tour.

Fri, Apr 21, 6.30pm

O2 Academy, Oxford

BETTER THAN NEVER & COAST TO COAST

Birmingham pop punk band, Coast to Coast announce their new EP, The Length Of A Smile, as they come to O2 Academy Oxford. With support from Better Than Nothing and One State Drive.

Fri, Apr 21 - Sat, Apr 22

New Theatre, Oxford

THE FIRST HIPPO ON THE MOON

From Number One bestselling children's author David Walliams comes an explosively funny space

adventure for children of 3 and up. Two big hippos. One enormous dream. Who can make it to the moon first?

Tue, Apr 25, 7.30pm

New Theatre, Oxford

YAMATO DRUMMERS

Following their hugely successful tour in 2015, the Yamato Drummers are back in the UK by popular demand. Their acclaimed performances of Japanese Taiko drumming and music have captivated

audiences of over 6 million people in 53 countries across the globe.

Fri, Apr 28, 7pm

O2 Academy, Oxford

TINARIWEN

Grammy Award-winning Tinariwen will be returning to O2 Academy Oxford in spring. The Malian guitar heroes, influenced by American blues and the likes of Jimi Hendrix, were discovered in the 90's. They travelled the world with their songs - charged with poetry and aching beauty.



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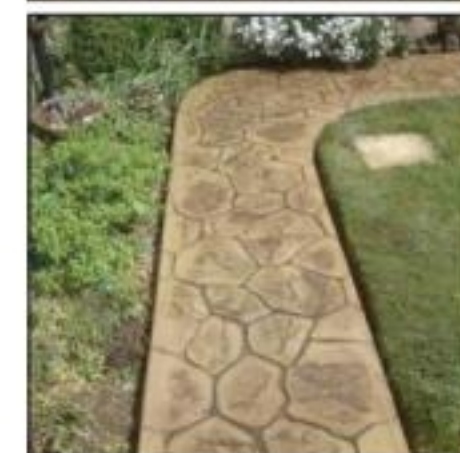
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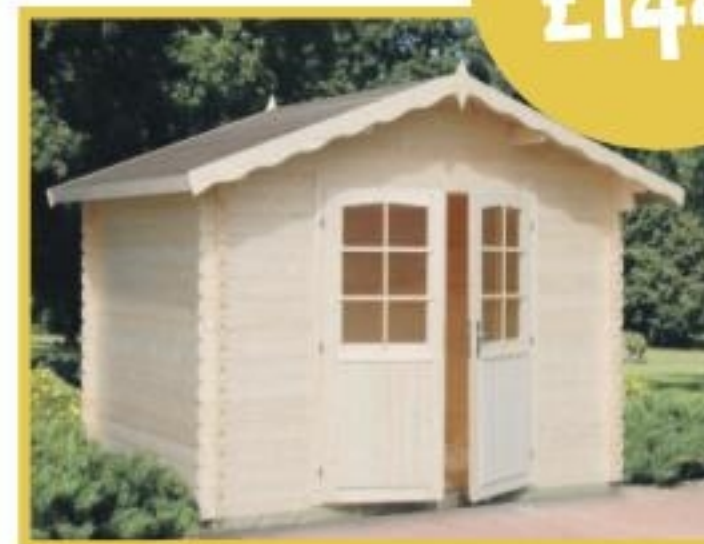
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Kia Optima Sportswagon 1.7 CRDi 3 ISG

A sportswagon with real swagger

By Tony Yates

IF you are looking for a decent estate car that has everything thrown in for a decent price – then look no further than the Optima Sportswagon.

What Kia have done here is made the perfect estate car that has a minimum of 552 litres of cargo space – plus the added option of dropping the rear seats to increase this to 1,686 litres. This also gives Kia the perfect opportunity to break into that important D-segment where they hope the Optima Sportswagon will grab a slice of the business and fleet sales market.

Power and Efficiency

The version I currently have on test is powered by a 1.7 litre turbocharged diesel engine with 139bhp and 340 lb/ft of torque which makes the Optima move along at a decent pace considering its size. Fuel economy figures are also good and you can expect to achieve around 60.0mpg (combined) plus a decent top speed of 124mph.

On the road

The Optima feels pretty good on our roads – and there are no dramas to talk about here because its well balanced and settled even on some of our most demanding roads – you'll have less to worry about if you decide to start planting the Optima into the corners.

I know I have said this before – but the Kia engineers really do put a lot of effort into making their cars handle well and you can feel that in the way the Optima tells you exactly what's going on beneath you – while Kia's onboard safety features do their job by keeping everything present and correct even in the event that you do go and get it all a bit wrong.

Safety and Technology

Trim levels inside the Optima don't feel as good as they do inside the Sportage – but this is a load lugger and a car that is able to accommodate a large family and pretty much everything you can throw at it – so when you think about

it, the interior is actually well thought out with modern hard wearing materials that will be very good at resisting wear for many years.

With technology now being one of the most important factors most people look for when buying a new car – the Optima needed to offer a lot of toys for not much money. Well, I can happily report that the Optima does not fall short here – and comes with a whole array of features such as front & rear parking sensors, auto-dimming rear-view mirror, 8" Touchscreen Satellite Navigation, dual automatic air conditioning with an automatic windscreen de-fog system, 18" alloy wheels, LED front fogs, Led rear lights, Blind Spot Detection, ABD with EBD, Lane-Keep Assist and speed limit information, Rear Cross Traffic Alert and twin side (front) curtain airbags among many others.

To sum up

Go out and see for yourself what the Optima Sportswagon has to offer. Standard price (from) £24,495 as tested.



• Kia Optima Sportswagon 1.7 CRDi 3 ISG

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16/66	Mazda2 5dr 1.5 75PS SE-L, Metropolitan Grey with delivery mileage	£11,245
16/66	Mazda2 5dr 1.5 90PS SE-L, Nav Aluminum with delivery mileage	£12,545
16/66	Mazda2 5dr 1.5 90PS SE-L, Nav Black with delivery mileage	£12,545
16/66	Mazda3 5dr 1.5 100PS SE, Arctic White with delivery mileage	£13,095
16/66	Mazda3 5dr 2.0 120PS SE, Nav Blue Reflex with delivery mileage	£14,545
16/66	Mazda CX-5 5dr 2.2D SE-L Nav 2WD, Sonic Silver with delivery mileage	£21,167
16/66	Mazda CX-5 5dr 2.2D SE-L Nav 2WD, Sonic Silver with delivery mileage	£21,167
16/66	Mazda CX-5 5dr 2.2D SE-L Nav AWD, Soul Red Metallic with delivery mileage	£21,297
16/66	Mazda CX-5 5dr 2.2D Sport Nav 2WD, Sonic Silver with delivery mileage	£23,677
16/66	Mazda CX-5 5dr 2.2D Sport Nav 2WD, Jet Black Mica with delivery mileage	£24,667

Hyundai

Reg	Model	Price
16/16	Hyundai i10 1.0 SE, Polar White with 276 miles	£7,890
15/65	Hyundai i20 1.4 SE 5dr, Sleek Silver with 6,601 miles	£8,890
16/16	Hyundai i20 1.2 SE, Sleek Silver with 12,584 miles	£8,950
15/15	Hyundai i20 Coupe Sport 1.4 CRDi, Stardust Grey with 19,936 miles	£9,450
15/65	Hyundai i20 1.4 Premium SE 5dr, Sleek Silver with 6,441 miles	£9,850
15/15	Hyundai i30 1.4 SE 5dr, Sleek Silver with 7,737 miles	£9,950
15/15	Hyundai i30 1.6 CRDi 5dr, Polar White with 12,347 miles	£10,450
14/64	Hyundai ix35 1.6 GDi SE, Sleek Silver with 10,779 miles	£11,850
13/13	Hyundai ix35 1.7 CRDi Premium, Phantom Black with 19,855 miles	£12,250
15/15	Hyundai ix35 1.6 GDi SE, Phantom Black with 8,129 miles	£12,850
15/15	Hyundai ix35 1.7 CRDi SE, Steel Grey with 18,947 miles	£13,450
16/16	Hyundai i30 1.6 CRDi SE Nav 5dr, Polar White with 4,805 miles	£13,450
14/64	Hyundai ix35 1.7 CRDi Premium, Creamy White with 16,318 miles	£13,850
15/15	Hyundai i40 1.7 CRDi SE Nav Tourer I4IPS, Phantom Black with 23,304 miles	£13,850
16/66	Hyundai i30 1.6 CRDi SE 5dr, Polar White with 10 miles	£13,950
16/16	Hyundai Tucson SE 1.6 GDi SE, Polar White with 7,911 miles	£15,950
15/65	Hyundai Tucson 1.6 GDi SE, White Sand with 12,520 miles	£15,950
16/66	Hyundai Tucson 1.7 SE Nav CRDi, Platinum Silver with 10 miles	£18,900
16/66	Hyundai Tucson 2.0 Premium Auto 4WD, Thunder Grey with 5,455 miles	£23,450
15/15	Hyundai Santa Fe Premium 7 Seat, Ocean View with 11,692 miles	£23,850
16/66	Hyundai Tucson 2.0 Premium 4WD, Phantom Black with 2,844 miles	£24,450
15/15	Hyundai Santa Fe Premium SE Auto 7 Seat, Titanium Silver with 8,006 miles	£28,450

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- 12 62 NISSAN NOTE 1.5 ACENTA DCI 5DR, red, 1 owner, FSH, 73K £5,695
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- 13 13 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI TOURER TECHLINE, met blue, fsh, 66k £8,995
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- 13 62 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI, white, fsh, 38k £7,995
- 13 13 CHEVROLET CRUZE 1.6 LT 5DR, met black, FSH, 56k £5,495

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- 12 62 FORD GALAXY 2.0 ZETEC TDCI 7 SEATER, met silver, fsh, 48k £12,495
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- 12 12 MAZDA CX-5 2.2D SPORT NAV 5DR, met blue with full black leather, FSH, 95K £10,995
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- 08 58 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI ZETEC 5DR, met silver, sh, 51k £8,295

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- 14 14 FORD MONDEO 1.6 TDCI BUSINESS EDITION 5 DOOR, met blue, fsh, 79k £7,995
- 12 62 KIA CEED 1.4 CRDI 1 5 DOOR, white, fsh, 91k £6,295
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We can now offer
R1234YF car air-con
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Is your car 2013 or newer? If so, you will need the correct gas.

As of the 7th September 2016 we are able to offer R1234yf refrigerant re-gassing, or a car air-con recharge as sometimes known at our Wheatley Car Centre Branch.

This gas is compulsory for new cars from 2013 all be it has been around since 2010, although some manufacturers are still refusing to use this, notably Mercedes who are not happy with the flammable nature of the gas, which in turn means not many companies offer the re-gassing service for cars using r1234yf. But due to the amount of cars we sell we have needed to be able have this service onsite so we can now offer this service to our customers.

A common question is why the old, r134a gas found in most cars today, is being replaced?
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Renault Laguna 1.8 Sports Tourer Estate



Year: 2002
Miles: 18,500
MOT: June 2017
Colour: Almond Green
Price: £3500

1 Automatic, one owner and service history Excellent Condition please call 01280 703968

23.03.17

Kia Rio Automatic



Year: 2003
Miles: 66,000
MOT: 018
Colour: Met Red
Price: £595

Kia Rio 1.3 1x 5 Door Hatch, PAS, EW, CL, CD Player, service history, very clean for year. 07833 160856

5838027 / 30.3.17

Mazda MX-5 1.8



Year: 2004
Miles: 66,300
Colour: Silver
MOT: August 2017
Price: £2,595 ono

One lady owner with FSH (12 stamps in the service book) lots of receipts. Silver with black hood. PAS, EW, EM, Airbags, original R/C player, 5 spd. Recent work includes two new tyres, full vehicle inspection and a fortron engine flush. Cam-belt changed in Aug 2015. Body and hood in good condition. Tonneau cover and full outdoor MX 5 cover included. Two keys, V5 present. Tel. 01296 698535 or 07788 211644

Chevrolet Aveo



Year: 2009
Miles: 60,200
MOT: Mar 2018
Colour: Dark Blue
Price: £1,395 ono

Chevrolet Aveo 1.4 Petrol 5 Door Hatchback Metallic Blue. Remote central locking with alarm, Air Con, Alloys, CD/Radio player, 4 electric windows, electric mirrors, 5 Speed, PAS, front fog lights. Drives well. Please call 01235 516902

30.3.17

Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 TD ecoFLEX 16v Exclusiv



Year: 2012
Miles: 72,800
Colour: Silver
MOT: May 2017
Price: £4,695 ono

7 SEATER ESTATE, 5 dr. Only One Owner with Service History (3 stamps) and service print out. Air con, ABS, Cruise, Traction control, Remote/Alarm, airbags, electric front windows & mirrors. Lovely condition inside and out drives really well.

T.L. 01906 400525 -- 07700 911644

Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi ecoFlex Exclusive



Year: 2012
Miles: 49,500
MOT: Aug 2017
Colour: Met Black
Price: £5,695 ono

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The Secretary of State gives notice of an Order made under Section 247 of the above Act entitled "The Stopping up of Highway (South East) (No.19) Order 2017" authorising the stopping up of an irregular shaped area of highway, comprising the current access and parking for Evenlode Tower, at Oxford in the City of Oxford. This is to enable development as permitted by Oxford City Council, reference 14/02640/CT3.

Copies of the Order may be obtained, free of charge, from the Secretary of State, National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR or nationalcasework@dtf.gsi.gov.uk (quoting NATTRAN/SE/S247/2688) and may be inspected during normal opening hours at Blackbird Leys Community Centre, Blackbird Leys Road, Oxford OX4 6HW.

Any person aggrieved by or desiring to question the validity of or any provision within the Order, on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the above Act or that any requirement or regulation made has not been complied with, may, within 6 weeks of 06 April 2017 apply to the High Court for the suspension or quashing of the Order or of any provision included.

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Grosjean has sights set on first points

F1

RENAULT and Haas will be targeting their first points of 2017 at this weekend's Chinese Grand Prix after a disappointing start to the season for both teams.

Haas driver Romain Grosjean showed the most promising form after running seventh in the early stages before a water leak ended his race early on lap 13.

But he is confident the car has the pace to be in contention for points once again with the Banbury-based team in Shanghai.

He said: "It's always good to have a fast car, one that's maybe not 100 per cent reliable, over a slow car that is reliable."

"Of course, it's not ideal not to finish the race, but if the car is fast, we can aim for some good points and the reliability is something we know we can fix."

Enstone-based Renault will be looking for an improvement in performance from this weekend, after a steady start to the season which saw Nico Hulkenburg finish just outside the points in 11th.

Technical director Nick Chester said: "We feel we have made a good step forward since last year, and the RS17 is able to fight in the midfield."

"We need to improve the car balance and we are still learning how to get the best out of the car under the new regulations, so there is a lot of potential to come."

Blues cause upset in cup

Rugby League

IF anyone had tipped Oxford RL to progress into the semi finals of the League 1 Cup people would have said "April Fool!"

But April 1 was a day to remember as the Blues overcame London Skolars 24-20 at Tilsley Park.

Oxford opened the scoring when Curt Macdonald touched down in the corner.

The first half was littered with penalties, a large majority going in the visitors' favour, which gave them good territory to open their account.

They did – twice – to make the score 8-4, until Oxford's Josh Atkinson finished in the corner.

The Blues crashed over the first try after the break as Atkinson again finished well in the corner and Oxford stretched to a 14-8 lead.

But the Skolars replied with a try to level the scores again.

Oxford then re-captured the lead through Jordan Gill.

Both sides were reduced to 14 men with Oxford wing man Curt Macdonald picking up a red following a melee.

Skolars pressed hard to strike with a try and conversion to earn a two-point lead.

But the Blues pounced on a defensive slip as Atkinson was gifted his hat-trick under the posts for an easy Burnett conversion.



Felipe Massa was sixth for Williams in Melbourne
Picture: courtesy of Williams Martini Racing

Williams ready for China challenge

By Adam Flinn

F1

AFTER a solid start to the F1 season, Williams will be looking for another big haul of points at this weekend's Chinese Grand Prix.

Felipe Massa came home sixth in

Australia in a relatively quiet drive, in which he wasn't troubled from the chasing pack but couldn't close in on those ahead of him.

His team-mate Lance Stroll had a more difficult race on his debut, with brake troubles forcing him out early.

But both are looking forward to the challenge of China, and the chance to test out the car on the long streets of

the Shanghai circuit.

Massa said: "It's always nice to go to China."

"It has a very old style, with many high speed corners and one of the longest straights in Formula One."

Stroll added: "I don't know a lot about the circuit, I have only done some simulator work on the track so I will have to wait to see what it is

like in reality."

"After Melbourne, which is a narrow track, I am going to change my approach a bit as it is a little more forgiving with the large run-off areas."

Williams are fourth in the constructors' championship with eight points at this early stage of the season after just one race.

Men pull off master stroke

The Boat Race

THERE was joy and disappointment at this year's boat race, with one team winning and the other finishing second.

The Oxford men were triumphant, with just a four-second difference separating them from their rivals.

The Dark Blues powered through on Sunday in a suspenseful race with a time of 16.59, making amends for last year.

Oxford prevented Cambridge from gaining an early advantage, moving out to a half a length lead by the Putney Embankment.

But then Cambridge closed the gap to around a quarter of a length.

After four minutes the steering of both coxes became extremely aggressive.

At Hammersmith Bridge Oxford moved to around a length ahead of Cambridge.

A clash of blades from the seven and two men of Oxford and Cambridge respectively briefly threw Oxford's rhythm.

However, coming under Hammersmith Oxford had moved to around a length's lead.

Cambridge refused to give up and, as a result, Oxford never moved to more than a length of clear water.

As the crews entered the final part of the race Oxford looked imperious but Cambridge never gave up and moved back to around two thirds of a length.

The boat races often bring mixed results and this year was no exception.

The sunny skies and placid water presented perfect conditions but no one could have predicted the dramatic start for the women's race.

Oxford caught a crab on the first stroke, leading to a very slow start and an advantage for Cambridge.

Cambridge increased their effort and at the mile post had a 10 second lead over Oxford.

Oxford stuck in there with Eleanor Shearer, the cox, making calls to move the boat but Cambridge proved to be too strong and every call their cox Matthew Holland made gave them a larger advantage.

Oxford pressed on but to no avail.

As Cambridge reached Hammersmith Bridge they had a 15-second lead over Oxford and it became obvious Cambridge would win.

Cambridge were the favourites going into this race and it was clear they were a very strong crew from the start.

Cambridge went on to win the race with a lead of 11 lengths and setting a course record of 18.34.

Plato philosophical after catastrophic weekend



Plato's car is taken back to the pits. Picture: Team BMR

Touring Cars

JASON Plato had a disastrous start to the British Touring Car Championship season after a heavy crash left him sidelined from two of the day's three races.

Starting race two in 12th place, the Oxford-based driver made a great start but almost immediately collided with Matt Simpson, turning his Subaru Levorg into the wall.

The impact caused severe damage to Plato's car, and despite a valiant effort from the Team BMR mechan-

ics to get it repaired it wasn't ready for race three.

He did manage to pick up four points in race one, making up six positions from his 18th-place start.

However, the team was off the pace all weekend, with Plato admitting that more work needs to be done.

"What a weekend that was, it's already been filed in the forget and move on folder," said Plato.

"We have lots of work to do before [the next races at] Donington, and I have every faith in my team that we can find the solutions to our problems."

Hoops ease drop fears

Oxford City

By George Welch

RELIEVED boss Mark Jones has praised his Oxford City side after all but ending their relegation fears with a 2-0 win at Bishops Stortford on Saturday.

A crisp first half strike from Ezra Forde and a second half Scott Davies penalty was enough for the Hoops to prevail at the expense of the division's basement team.

Jones made several changes after a run of four defeats in five league games and City, the joint-fourth lowest scorers in the National League South, looked to open the scoring early on.

Straight from kick off, Wilson Carvalho made inroads down the right wing and his cross was met by Forde whose stooping header was clawed away by an alert Richard Walton in the Bishop's Stortford goal.

The resulting corner found Forde again and his inventive flick back to debutant Guri Demuria saw the defender have a goalbound volley cleared off of the line.

The frantic start was not matched by the rest of the half, but City got their noses in front a minute before half time when Ezra held his man off before placing a left footed shot beyond Walton into the bottom corner.

Oxford changed their formation to pack the midfield and made better use of the ball while nullifying any Stortford threat.

With 25 minutes remaining, the Hoops doubled their lead from the spot when man of the match Carvalho was scythed down by Evans Kouassi. Davies did the honours by blasting home via the underside of the bar.

Going two goals down did nothing



Scott Davies doubles City's lead from the spot
Picture: Michael Allen

to enliven a deflated Bishop's Stortford side who dropped to bottom of the National League South table and look doomed to relegation.

Jones expressed his relief at picking up a much needed three points in "an important game for us".

He said: "We looked at it almost like a cup final in that we felt we needed to try and win the game."

"Obviously Bishop's Stortford have been struggling all season and their home record isn't great so it was a big

opportunity for us to win, pick up the three points, and create a little bit of breathing space.

"We approached it with that must-win mentality and we did the job."

"It's a great three points. It keeps us 11 points off of the relegation battle with five games to go so perhaps we can now relax a little bit."

City, who remain 14th in the table and 11 points clear of the trapdoor, host Hampton and Richmond Borough on Saturday.



Banbury United will be looking for more celebrations as they strive to make the play-offs. Picture: E A Barson Photography

Point to make play-offs

Banbury United

THE Puritans' hot-pursuit of the Southern Premier League play-offs continued with a 1-0 win at relegation threatened Hayes & Yeading United on Saturday.

Banbury United made it six wins out of seven thanks to this narrow win decided by a Conor McDonagh goal just before half time.

The valuable three points, coupled with fifth-placed Merthyr Town's 2-2 draw at Kings Langley, moved Mike Ford's side to within one point of the play-off spots.

McDonagh could have grabbed his first goal of the game on 12 minutes when he connected with a Ricky Johnson knock down but blasted the ball well over the bar from 10 yards out.

Banbury had the better of the opening 45 and went close to opening the scoring midway through the first half when a Luke Carnell header smashed against the crossbar.

The Puritans got the reward their domination deserved when, seven minutes before half time, McDonagh connected with another Johnson knock down.

Unlike earlier in the half, the forward struck the ball home confidently from six yards.

United were forced to defend in the second half as their struggling hosts enjoyed much more possession.

Hayes' best spell came midway through the second half and Banbury were indebted to Jack Harding in the 67th minute when he made a great save from Mitchell Weiss in a one-on-one situation.

Kiddy left with egg on face at 'Sarnies'

Kidlington

KIDLINGTON Town went down 3-0 away to Egham Town in their Southern League Division One Central clash on Saturday.

Visting the Sarnies's stadium for the first time, the Greens arrived hoping to make it two wins on the spin after defeating Northwood 2-1 at home the previous weekend.

Despite having 26-goal striker Anaclot Odhiambo in their squad, Kidling-

ton barely threatened and were well beaten by the home side that needed a win to keep their play-off hopes alive.

Town started on the back foot with Egham piling on the pressure early on, resulting in two quickfire goals in the opening 20 minutes.

The hosts opened the scoring after 14 minutes through a calm finish from top scorer Brendan Matthew who steered the ball through the legs of keeper Bojan Terek after good work from Richard Pacquette with a delightful header.

Five minutes later, Egham scored their second after a six-man move forced Terek into another save from Ryan Phillips and defender Reece Yorke rose the highest to convert at the back post.

Three minutes into second half injury time Moore attacked for Egham and was brought down in the area by Jack Quainton.

Bajram Pashaj drilled the resulting penalty into the bottom right corner and ended a disappointing day for Kidlington.



James Organ heads in Didcot's equaliser. Picture: Roger Neal

Town rejoice Louis goal

Didcot Town

A LATE Louis Joyce volley earned Didcot Town a 2-1 win at already relegated Bridgwater Town.

The hosts went very much youth first with their line-up following a heavy 7-0 defeat at promotion chasing Salisbury on Tuesday last week.

The Railwaymen should have made an ideal start after George Reid was felled in the box by debutant keeper Ashton Granter for a clear penalty.

George Jeacock stepped up but his tame kick was easily saved by the youngster diving low to his left.

But the Railwaymen didn't have things their own way and, inspired by the penalty save, the home side took a shock lead.

Syd Camper capitalised on an under hit backpass to Leigh Bedwell

in the Diddy goal and the striker made no mistake to round the keeper and slot in.

Didcot brought Ben Whitehead on in place of George Jeacock at half time and restarted on top.

They got their rewards just before the hour as James Organ headed home from a corner.

And four minutes from time a Bedwell goal kick was flicked on to Sam Barder, who played in Joyce to volley home from 12 yards out.

The replay of the Railwaymen's fixture at home to Hereford will be played behind closed doors on Tuesday, April 11.

Wantage Town will join Bridgwater in the Hellenic League as their relegation from Division 1 South & West was confirmed on Saturday after they gave a heroic display in a 3-2 defeat at runaway champions Hereford.

'Pay what you want' for promotion clash

Abingdon United

ABINGDON United are looking to bring the community together to support the club, as a new era takes shape at Northcourt Road.

The UHlsport Hellenic League Division 1 West side will be providing their first ever 'pay what you like day' for the clash with North Leigh United on April 15.

The match is set to be pivotal, with only one more game remaining afterwards, as United search for an immediate return to the Hellenic Premier following last season's relegation.

Media officer and committee mem-

ber Harry Burton said: "Everyone at the club is excited about this opportunity to bring the town together to support the team and hopefully win over the fans of the future."

"Unfortunately, like many non-league clubs, we do struggle at times to get people through the turnstiles and so we must find innovative ideas like this to combat that."

"Fans are the heart and soul of every club, so clubs mustn't take them for granted by charging them a premium."

Abingdon are flying high in third position and have games in hand over many of their rivals, as they look to secure promotion.

Mr Burton added: "Bouncing back from relegation was always going to be a tough ask, but so far we are passing with flying colours and promotion is looking a real possibility."

"This is a testament to the coaching staff, who have built a very strong team, balanced with the right amount of youth with experienced heads."

"There is still a lot more to come from our team and it can only be strengthened with the addition of the development academy next season."

United travel to Letcombe in the final away game of the season on Saturday, which comes off the back of a 6-0 demolition of Cheltenham Saracens.

'We have to put defeat behind us and move on'

A DEJECTED Michael Appleton has said he won't be able to bring himself to re-watch the Wembley defeat.

The loss visibly hurt the U's boss more than last year's reverse to Barnsley at the same stadium 12 months ago.

While the south Yorkshire side went on to win promotion to the Championship via the play-offs (and are enjoying mid-table safety this year) there was a sense that this year was Oxford's year.

United can't be accused of complacency against bottom club Coventry but they failed to hit the heights they so often have since the turn of the year, which has included a run of 14 wins in three months that propelled the U's up the League One table.

After the weekend, Appleton admitted: "It hurt big time. A lot of bad stuff has happened, there have been a lot of hard times including my playing career being ended.

"But Sunday was probably the worst day I've had in football. I looked back at the game in my head but I won't watch it properly - I refuse to watch it.

"It was a difficult moment. We will look back at Wembley over the summer and say 'ok what could we have done better, is there anything we could have done better or is it just one of those things'."



Liam Sercombe pulled a goal back but it was too much for United to come back from 2-0 down

He added: "It was a tough half an hour straight after the game. I was probably talking a load of rubbish because I was trying to keep it under control.

"But football as we all know moves

on quickly and luckily from our point of view we have another game on Wednesday [yesterday] so you have to put it behind you.

"They say it makes you stronger so let's wait and see."

'We know we've got some tough games ahead'

AHEAD of Oxford United's League One fixture away to play-off chasing Fleetwood Town last night, Michael Appleton admitted his side are shooting for a top-six finish but that they're 'not stupid'.

Before last night's challenge in the north west, the U's faced the prospect of just six games left to chase down seven points to the play-off places.

Appleton confessed that victory over Uwe Rosler's Fleetwood is imperative.

The 41-year-old said on Tuesday: "We have six games and need to win them all.

"Even if we do, there is no guarantee we would make it, but I will be absolutely amazed if we don't reach the play-offs with another 18 points.



Michael Appleton at Wembley on Sunday after the defeat

"But we aren't stupid. We've got some tough games coming up, starting with Fleetwood and some tough

away games like Bradford and Millwall, two sides fighting like hell to make sure they stay or play in the playoffs.

"Fleetwood beat us early in the season and are a side that have been there in that top six for a long, long time.

"I'm hoping to get some kind of reaction from the players; the first 10 minutes of the game will be an indication of how the game might go. But they don't come any bigger than Wednesday."

Appleton will then take his side to mid-table Walsall on Saturday, for which the U's have sold over 1,000 tickets.

Go to www.theoxfordshireguardian.co.uk for a match report from last night's game with Fleetwood.

U's let trophy slip through their feet for a second year

Continued from back page

was the only one alert to tip a Thomas thunderbolt over the bar on 53 minutes. But there wasn't much respite for the U's stopper, who was picking the ball out of his net two minutes later.

Winger Thomas doubled City's lead with a fine finish from 18-yards, powering a low drive into the bottom corner beyond Eastwood to give United a mountain to climb.

The Yellows were rattled and Appleton was forced to shuffle his pack by bringing on Sercombe for Ryan Ledson.

The U's turned up the pressure dial for the last 20 minutes with more possession and crosses into the box.

The pressure meant Burge had to be alert to tip a Maguire free kick over the bar. Chey Dunkley headed over from the subsequent corner.

But it was game on in the 75th minute when super sub Sercombe scored his fifth of the season by driving a half vol-

ley through a crowd of bodies and into the net. The game exploded to life and, with the roar of the 35,000+ U's fans behind them, United should have been level just three minutes later.

The big moment came when Rothwell sent Hall through on goal as the U's broke away. But, with just the keeper to beat, the winger fired straight at Burge when he should have scored.

United huffed and puffed but the makeshift Coventry back four held firm and made life difficult for a nullified U's attack.

The most dramatic moment came right at the end when a U's corner caused panic in the six-yard box.

Sub Josh Ruffels had his header denied by Burge and a combination of the City stopper and Bigirimana prevented Edwards' follow up from trickling over the line deep into injury time.

Another game of what might have been for the U's.

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
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2	Bolton Wanderers	41	29	79
3	Fleetwood Town	40	18	69
4	Bradford City	41	16	69
5	Scunthorpe United	41	19	67
6	Southend United	41	15	66

7	Millwall	41	9	66
8	Rochdale	41	7	61
9	Bristol Rovers	41	1	60
10	Oxford United	40	9	59
11	Peterborough United	41	3	58
12	MK Dons	41	2	54
13	AFC Wimbledon	41	1	54
14	Walsall	40	-3	53
15	Northampton Town	41	-6	51
16	Charlton Athletic	41	-1	47
17	Bury	41	-11	46
18	Oldham Athletic	41	-15	45
19	Gillingham	41	-18	45
20	Port Vale	40	-18	45

21	Shrewsbury Town	41	-17	43
22	Swindon Town	41	-17	42
23	Chesterfield	41	-28	34
24	Coventry City	40	-27	32

Dismal start to season continues for United women with another loss

THE Spring Series campaign remains winless for Oxford United Women as a late winner denied them a point at league leaders Durham Women on Sunday.

Zoe Ness slotted home three minutes from time to seal a 2-1 victory after Durham were forced to come from behind after Ellie Noble's goal at the start of the second half.

Beth Hepple levelled things up shortly after, before Ness netted the winner.

Durham took the game to their visitors early on and had several half-chances with Sarah Wilson seeing a shot blocked before Nat Gutteridge poked wide from close range.

Oxford were still threatening, however, and had arguably the best chance of the first half when Emily

Donovan sprung the offside trap only to loft the ball well wide.

Neither side could find a break through in the first half, but the U's were ahead shortly after the restart as Noble took aim from distance and her shot found its way into the bottom corner.

And the lead could have been doubled moments later were it not for Rachael Laws in the Durham goal denying the lively Ini Umotong who had broken through on goal.

This let-off sparked Durham into life and they began to create chances again - Emily Roberts slotted wide before stopper Demi Lambourne did well to deny Hepple at her near post.

But Hepple wasn't to be denied again and netted the equaliser just

before the hour as she converted from close range after a defensive mix-up.

Umotong then could have handed Oxford the lead with 20 minutes remaining with only heroic defending keeping the scores level.

After the Nigerian saw her first shot saved by Laws, Becky Salicki did well to block Evie Gane's follow-up on the line before Umotong then slotted wide with the goal at her mercy.

That miss was significant as, with three minutes to go, Ness fired home the Wildcats' winner from 12 yards after a drilled cross from Roberts.

Durham saw out the final few minutes with minimal fuss to pick up another three points in the FA WSL Spring Series, leaving Oxford winless and second-bottom.



Beth Hepple scores the equaliser for Durham
Picture: Susan Gutteridge



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Wembley heartbreak

35,000 fans share agony and ecstasy of Checkatrade final



United cheer with the fans ahead of kick off and inset, Chris Maguire sits dejected after the final whistle
Pictures: Steve Daniels

Coventry City 2
Oxford United 1

By George Welch

OXFORD United suffered their second defeat at Wembley in as many years after losing 2-1 to Coventry City in the Checkatrade Trophy final in front of a massive 74,400 crowd.

After losing 3-2 to Barnsley in last year's Johnstone's Paint Trophy final, the U's endured Wembley heartbreak again, this time at the hands of League One's basement club.

The Sky Blues have had a nightmare season, but a goal either side of half time from midfielders Gail Bigirimana and

George Thomas gave them the lead they needed to see out a memorable Wembley win.

United sub Liam Sercombe threw the U's a lifeline with 15 minutes to go to set up a dramatic finale.

Oxford boss Michael Appleton cast a despondent figure after the final whistle, with his side becoming the third team to lose consecutive finals in the competition.

United saw City keeper Lee Burge pull off a double save and have the ball cleared off the line deep into injury time as Coventry won their first EFL Trophy in their first Wembley appearance for

30 years.

After a cagey first 10 minutes, a long throw bobbed about the danger zone and Bigirimana was perfectly positioned to slot Coventry into the lead. Cue pandemonium in the sky blue half of Wembley stadium.

Although United failed to get their fluid, attacking play going, Oxford responded by dominating possession and threatening with a series of corners. Curtis Nelson went closest with a 15th minute header that drifted wide.

Coventry, who came into the final on the back of successive league wins,

still had the better sights of goal though with both Stuart Beavon and Ben Stevenson trying their luck as the half hour approached.

Referee Chris Sarginson waved away a Kane Hemmings penalty appeal as the U's tried to crank up the pressure before skipper John Lundstram sliced over the bar on 32 minutes.

Just a few minutes later and three players in yellow tried to dance their way through to Burge's goal. Joe Rothwell, Chris Maguire and Phil Edwards all twisted and turned trying to find space but Marvin Johnson eventually wasted

his cross and Coventry could breathe.

The first half saw a lack of clear chances and United winger Rob Hall fluffed the U's best opportunity, a half chance on the counter-attack on the cusp of half time.

United, who missed the attacking threats of cup-tied pair Conor McAleny and Toni Martinez, were rattled at the start of the second period as the Sky Blues came out all guns blazing.

A quick City corner caught out the Oxford defence and Simon Eastwood

• Continues inside

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